



THE TIMES

Tomorrow

An Englishman's castle: Two of the most beautiful stately homes of England will soon be passing out of the hands of the families who have cherished them. Hever Castle, home of the Astor family for 80 years, has been sold and its estate is about to be auctioned. Kedleston Hall, where the Curzons have lived for more than 300 years, is to be offered to the nation in settlement of a tax bill. Spectrum tomorrow looks at the past, present and future of these great houses and the people whose lives have revolved round them.

On the Friday Page, best-selling novelist Judith Kranz explains her own particular brand of escapism from a dreary world.

IRA victim defied army rules

Sergeant Brian Purvis, whose wife was shot dead by the Provisional IRA at her mother's home in Londonderry, had defied army regulations by being there. He was seriously injured in the attack.

The sergeant, who is stationed at Wimborne, Dorset, had obtained permission to accompany his Ulster-born wife on condition that he stayed with army friends at military barracks.

Page 3

Shift to right in Transvaal

The South African Government suffered a setback in four crucial by-elections in Transvaal, with the results underlining the continuing shift to the right of the white electorate. The by-elections were seen as a limited plebiscite on the Nationalist Government's controversial constitutional reforms.

Page 6

Sakharov ban

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Prize winner, cannot leave the Soviet Union. This said yesterday. The announcement came soon after Dr Sakharov had said he was willing to leave the country.

Roach decision

The inquest into the death of Colin Roach, the black youth who died of shotgun wounds in the entrance of a London police station, is to resume on June 6 at Clerkenwell County Court.

Vienna coalition

The Socialists and the right-wing Freedom Party have reached agreement on a new Austrian Government. Together they have a majority of 21 in the 183-seat Parliament elected on April 24.

Trade call

Steps for closer cooperation between the International Monetary Fund and other world agencies to liberalize trade were urged by representatives of leading Western nations and Japan at a meeting in Paris.

Page 25

French loan

France has applied for a 30 billion franc loan from the EEC to boost foreign exchange reserves. Community ministers are expected to approve the request on Monday.

Page 8

Aga Khan sale

A magnificent collection of African art belonging to the Aga Khan's uncle and estimated to be worth £750,000, is to be sold at Sotheby's next month.

Page 16

Leader page 15
Letters: On prisons from Mr Martin Wright and Lord Hydon; union recognition from Mr John Lyons; nuclear weapons from Mr John Wilkinson, MP; Leading article: Solidarnosc; Economy; Census.

Features, pages 10 and 14.

Can the EEC ever be a fair deal? Ronald Butt on Labour's great unmentionable: The making of Chambers' Dictionary; Spare a thought for cockroaches; Spectrum: The cleaning classes move upstairs.

Today's Office, pages 17-22.

A six-page Special Report covering design and new developments in office technology.

Books, page 11.

Michael Ratcliffe, reviews Ian Hamilton's biography of Robert Lowell; Ronald Lewin on war; Grantray Goulden on India; Philip Howard on Caesar; Gay Firth and Stuart Evans on fiction.

Obituary, page 16.

Professor C E Pickford, Mrs Anna Rosenberg Hoffman

Labour agrees its election manifesto at record speed

The Labour Party took just over an hour to agree its manifesto, adopting the campaign document it published in March.

A Gallup opinion poll, conducted at the weekend and published today, shows the Conservatives have a 17½ per cent lead over Labour.

By Julian Heslop, Political Editor

ON OTHER PAGES

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Disappearing marginals 5
Ronald Butt 14
Frank Johnson 36

meeting in the history of the party.

After Mr Sam McCloskie, party chairman, convened the meeting Mr Wedgwood Benn spoke first and recommended that the campaign documents be adopted without substantial amendment. Mr Michael Foot, the leader, and Mr John Golding, Mr Benn's successor as chairman of the home policy committee, and more often than not Mr Benn's opponent in the past, spoke in favour of the party to the principal issues not covered by the manifesto.

At past elections the "clause 5 meeting" has seen some classic disputes, with party leaders notably in recent years Sir Harold Wilson and Mr James Callaghan, being accused of using their position to impose the Shadow Cabinet's views, or even their own views, on the party to the principal issues not covered by the manifesto.

Only Mr Peter Shore, the shadow Chancellor, argued for a new draft to be written objecting to the document's pedestrian language, but giving his hearty impression that the manifesto is the authoritative document.

So the contract which Labour is offering the electors is the familiar one, including heavy state spending to expand the economy with the aim of reducing unemployment to below a million within five years, the pursuit of a non-nuclear defence policy and withdrawal from the European Community.

It was agreed that Mr Foot

would write a fresh foreword, updating for the campaign – but certainly not modifying – his blast against the Prime Minister for worshipping the profit motive.

The pledge to increase the retirement pension "as soon as practicable" by £1.45 for a single person and £2.25 for a married couple will be added to the so-called "emergency" programme from which it is said to have been omitted by accident.

But there will be no other changes and no new policy in the document, which will be republished on Monday.

It was also agreed to print a "popular" 2,500-word leaflet of selected goodies from the main document for pushing through letter-boxes. Its balder, briefer language has some interesting omissions. It does not tell the householder that the aim is to close all nuclear bases and leave the European Community within five years. But Mr Morin emphasized that the manifesto is the authoritative document.

He explained that the text had been "very tightly written – every sentence means something", and that it had been pointed out at the meeting he did not say by whom, that there was "a balance of commitments at each stage, and that even an abbreviation might distort the balance".

Continued on back page, col 4

Alliance demands TV parity

By Our Political Staff

Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr David Steel last night demanded equal broadcasting time for the SDP-Liberal Alliance during the general election campaign.

Supported by their chief whips, Mr John Roper and Mr Alan Beith, the Alliance leaders went into a private meeting with the broadcasting authorities and Tory and Labour front-benchers to press for an equal allocation of election broadcasts and, perhaps more significantly, air time during television and radio news programmes.

The Tories, led by Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, and Mr Michael Jopling, the Chief Whip, and the Labour Party, represented by Mr John Silkin, Shadow Commons leader, and Mr Michael Cocks, Opposition Chief Whip, were

candidates in line with the party's rules for constituency Labour parties.

They lay down that in

circumstances where a dissolution of Parliament is announced before a reselection process has taken place, the sitting MP shall be reselected.

Similarly Mr Laurence Pavitt has been declared reselected in the neighbouring constituency of Brent, South, the only other constituency where the reselection procedure has not taken place.

Mr Arthur Lewis, Labour MP for Newham, North-West, who was ousted as his party's candidate by a left-winger, is to stand against him at the general election, the Press Association reports.

Yesterday Mr Lewis an-

nounced that he would be

contesting the seat as the

"Official Labour candidate for

38 years".

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He told *The Times*: "If

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Mr Freeson, a former Labour

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ELECTION JUNE 83

PM on Jimmy Young show

Finance Bill casualties

CND challenged

Thatcher steps up the campaign with attack on unilateralism

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday described the Soviet Union as the "sworn enemies" of the West, in an interview which significantly stepped up her attack on Labour's plans for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher said on the *Jimmy Young* programme on BBC radio: "You do not, if you really hate nuclear weapons, as I do, you do not say we will have one-sided disarmament and throw out all the American bases, leave all the weapons in the hands of our sworn enemies then hope to goodness they will negotiate. Of course they won't."

Mrs Thatcher said: "The Warsaw Pact, Russia, is the greatest threat to the freedom of the West and she doesn't hesitate to use her tanks to roll in, not only to the satellite countries, but to Afghanistan. We shall never forget that."

She said that Britain and her allies could only negotiate from strength, but when asked, specifically, whether she would hope to meet the Soviet leader, she replied: "I don't see why we should always go to the Moscow to see Mr Andropov, do you?"

"Mr Andropov has never set foot in a non-communist country, he has never breathed the air of freedom, he doesn't know what it is like. This is one of the problems when you are dealing with communist countries; they don't know what it is like."

Heseltine challenge to CND

By Nicholas Timmins

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament should put up election candidates and see how much support it would get if it really wants credibility, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said yesterday.

He said that he thought CND wanted to elevate itself to the status of government. His proposal was dismissed as absurd by Mgr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, whose policy is not run its own candidates or to endorse any individual party or candidate.

Mr Ray Whitney, Conservative MP for Wycombe accused the CND of giving advice on election campaign tactics to its local groups that went "well beyond the activities of pressure groups to which we have all become accustomed".

Ways in which CND proposed to put pressure on candidates, for example by ensuring adverse publicity to any candidate who refused to take part in meetings organized by CND would, Mr Whitney said, "be of interest to all of us who support the democratic parliamentary process".

Mr Kent said: "If we are doing is outside the law, which we do not believe it is, no doubt Mr Whitney has his remedies. We are simply exercising our democratic right in this country to make our opinions known".

like for people to have human rights which do not depend on government."

"I am not going to ask Mr Andropov here. What I think would be better is if we had a few conferences where Mr Andropov comes, perhaps to a neutral country outside the Soviet Union."

"Eventually, you know, it is better that we talk. We do talk in various conferences, but I just don't think that everyone should travel to Moscow to see Mr Andropov."

Mrs Thatcher also stepped up the strength of her condemnation of Labour's policy to withdraw from the European Economic Community.

She said that the consequences of withdrawal would be "absolutely disastrous". With 43 per cent of British exports going to the Community, there would be a threat to export-based employment. She also emphasized the importance to the world of democracies working together within an area of stability.

"I think it would be terrifying to take us out," she said. "Terrifying for future of democracy, terrifying for the future of jobs. It would be total confusion, and industry would all of a sudden find barriers put up against her when she tried to export into Europe, so our

exports would be more expensive. Confusion would reign."

Asked about the Stuttgart summit on June 6 and 7, Mrs Thatcher said that her attendance would depend on the success of preliminary talks. "If it were just a question of doing the final negotiations there, obviously one would go."

The Prime Minister said that the choice between Conservative and Labour made the general election extremely important. "I believe the Labour Party wants to change the sort of society which we have. I believe it wants to go to a much, much more controlled society: more state industries, more state control, bigger taxation. I believe the British people don't want it."

She said that the Conservative Government had brought a fundamental change in Britain. The country had regained its confidence and self-respect and had attracted a new regard and admiration from abroad.

"We are a marvellous people. The fundamental thing about us," she said, "is that whether we are the 23½ million in work or the three million who unfortunately haven't got work, whatever part we come from, from all walks of life, we are united by a common belief that this is a free country and it is going to stay that way, and that is worth defending, and we are going to do it."

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The BR report

Parker blames strikes for railways' £174m loss



British Rail would have broken even last year but for strikes, Sir Peter Parker, chairman of BR, said yesterday in his last annual report.

"Without the strikes, we would have doubled last year's operating surplus and, after paying interest, broken even in spite of the slump. As it was, the strikes cost us £170m and the group result was a loss, after interest, of £147m."

Sir Peter, who is due to retire in the autumn, said 1982 would prove a turning point in modernizing the rail business. "It was a hard year for British Rail, unnecessarily hard on our customers, but BR has come out stronger than it went in."

The report shows that before interest, rail businesses lost £97.8m, offset by a £10.5m profit on non-rail businesses like Sealink and property.

Interest, partly offset by extraordinary items, boosted that £87.3m operating loss to £156.2m, which after transfers to reserves became a total loss of £173.6m.

But the costly strikes should not eclipse the favourable factors, Sir Peter said. There was "a momentum of change" which cut the railways' cost structure during 1982, with positive long-term benefits.

"We are still running the same size network, but since mid-1981 we have cut our costs by £250m. "We have fewer locomotives, fewer coaches, fewer wagons, fewer people - 27,000 off the payroll in two years. Railway working expenses were cut by £80m in 1982. "And now we have a clear-cut strategy for change that should continue to improve our performance still further."

After two years of "relentless negotiations", Sir Peter said there was now agreement on fundamental changes like one-man operation of the new electric trains from London St Pancras, and flexible rosters.

For the first time, the annual report includes a section on

Sir Peter Parker: 'A hard year'

"the customer", which reports that a concerted effort to improve customer service began in 1982, including attention to the attitude of staff and improvements in information

performance is confidently expected this year.

"This anticipated upturn in the company's performance coincides with the board's plan to achieve the privatisation of Sealink as an entity in 1983," the report said.

BR engineering, with 12 workshops, "exceeded its 1982 financial targets", with a 3.550, nearly 11 per cent cut in manpower combined with a further £14m saving in overheads and a £27m reduction in stock levels.

The transport board contributed a record £77.8m to British Rail's corporate finances, bringing its total contribution since 1970 to more than £500m.

Investment spending was £161m below the permitted ceiling for 1981, at £69m, because of cash limit constraints.

During 1982, 415 miles of track were renewed against a 610-mile programme. The rail strike cost an estimated £150m in passenger revenue, although receipts at £933m were down less than 10 per cent in 1981. Passenger miles at 17bn were down 11 per cent.

British Railways Board Annual Report and Accounts (Stationery Office: £3.50).

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ELECTION JUNE 83 Why there are fewer marginals • Bills that should survive • Focus on Bristol East

How boundary changes have doubled the handicap for Labour

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The degree to which the Conservatives will benefit from changes in the electoral map is shown in detail in a guide to the new constituencies published today.

It shows that Labour has been twice handicapped by the boundary revision. These have given the Conservatives 21 extra seats and taken nine from Labour, as already noted, but they have also reduced the number of potential gains for the challenger party by reducing the number of potential gains for the challenger party by reducing the number of marginal and highly marginal seats.

A uniform swing across the country from Conservative to Labour of 2.5 per cent would result in 30 seats being gained by Labour, rather than the 37 it would have gained on existing boundaries. A 5 per cent will yield only 69 instead of 74 gains.

The calculations are based on a comprehensive joint undertaking by a working party of political academics and broadcasters from the BBC and from Independent Television News.

They have surveyed the

pattern of voting at local elections in every ward of the United Kingdom and have constructed a model, originally devised by Mr Paul McKeef of ITN, of how the present House of Commons would have been constituted if, in 1979, it had been elected on the new boundaries.

Tables show how each new constituency has been built up and each old one dispersed.

For the broadcasters, the special value of the model is that it allocates each new seat to the party which would have been in possession and so they can, on election night, record the familiar flow of gains and losses.

It shows precisely the scale of the tilt ahead of Labour. As Professor Ivor Crewe, of Essex University, points out in its introduction, the Conservatives would, in 1979, have had an overall majority of 71 on the new boundaries, instead of 44, and a majority over Labour of 101 instead of 71.

In 1979 the Conservatives led Labour by 7 per cent of the national vote. If on June 9 there is a national swing of 3.5 per cent from Conservative to

Labour, so that Labour has an equal share of the vote, the Conservatives will still have 16 more votes – 316 to Labour's 300 – and, assuming no increase in the other parties' total share, Mrs Margaret Thatcher would be able to continue in office, although heading a minority administration.

Table 1 shows that for each 1 per cent swing an average of 13 seats would change hands between the Conservative and Labour parties.

Table 2 shows that Labour must gain 50 seats from the Conservatives, on a 4 per cent swing, to become the largest party, but that it needs a 6 per cent swing to secure an overall majority large enough to be sure of a full five-year term in government.

Because of an action mounted by his unsuccessful Conservative opponent, Mr Slade and his agent were faced with a legal bill of almost £50,000. Their offence was to have overspent their election budget by 66p and to have so strongly contested their return of election expenses.

Table 3 shows equally vividly the height of the fence which the SDP/Liberal Alliance would have to clear to make its presence felt in the new Commons.

The BBC/ITN Guide to the New Parliamentary Constituencies (Parliamentary Research Services, 18 Lincolns Inn, Chichester, West Sussex, £2.50).

Insurance net for candidates

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Election candidates can protect themselves from legal actions under the Representation of the People Act, 1983, under a new kind of insurance policy launched today.

For £55 candidates can take out insurance against the costs of defending charges of illegal practices in their election expenses, which can lead to the loss of a seat and a ban on being elected for five years.

The policy, details of which are being sent to an estimated 2,500 prospective candidates, has been devised in the wake of the case of Mr Adrian Slade, a Liberal candidate in the local council elections in Richmond in 1981.

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Mr Adrian Slade: Warning to others.

as his own, he costs are still in dispute.

Mr Brian Raincock, managing director of Legal Benefits, which has launched the scheme, said: "Candidates and their agents, particularly in marginal seats, are extremely vulnerable to legal actions over what might

be a tiny mistake. Yet the penalty for the individual is extremely heavy."

Under the policy, which is being recommended by Conservatives and the Social Democratic Party, candidates and their agents are covered for any one claim within two years for up to £50,000.

Table 1: How swings of votes will translate into seats

Lab to C %	C	Lab	Lib	SNP/PC	Overall majority	Majority over party
7.0	455	187	5	5	C281	C288
6.0	445	177	5	5	C244	C288
5.0%	418	204	5	5	C187	C214
4.0	407	215	5	5	C165	C192
3.0	398	224	5	5	C147	C174
2.0	384	235	5	5	C119	C149
1.0	375	243	5	5	C103	C133
no swing	360	259	5	4	C 71	C101
C to Lab						
1.0	348	269	10	5	C47	C79
2.0	338	279	10	5	C27	C59
3.0	326	290	10	5	C 3	C38
4.0	307	309	10	5	no party	Lab 2
5.0	296	320	10	5	no party	Lab 24
6.0	278	335	13	6	Lab 21	Lab 57
7.0	269	344	13	6	Lab 39	Lab 75

Changes of party control in a seat since 1979 through a by-election or defection have been ignored.

Table 2: The hurdles Labour must clear

Required turnover of seats	Required swing from C to Lab %	Required swing from C to 2nd party in seat %
C lose secure overall majority (ie under 25)	C lose 24 seats	2.2
C lose bare overall majority	C lose 36 seats	3.3
Lab become single largest party	Lab gain 50 seats from C	4.0
Lab obtain bare overall majority	Lab gain 66 seats	5.4
Lab obtain secure overall majority (ie over 25)	Lab gain 79 seats	6.1

Changes of party control in a seat since 1979 through a by-election or defection have been ignored.

Table 3: How an Alliance advance would hurt the Conservatives (assuming votes taken equally from Labour and Tories)

Election result (seats)		Overall		Crash over tab	
SDP/Lib % share of vote	C	Lab	Lib/SDP	Others	Majority
18	355	258	18	24	C61 +97
20	353	259	14	25	C57 +95
22	350	257	21	26	C43 +89
24	346	257	21	26	C43 +89
25	339	256	29	28	C29 +83
26	334	256	34	26	C19 +78
28	322	256	46	25	none +66
32	313	255	55	27	none +58
34	295	251	77	27	none +44
36	272	237	114	27	none +35

* Includes the Speaker.

Benn's tough task

Constituency profile: Bristol East

Mr Wedgwood Benn, having come through his first battle by securing a new constituency, at the second attempt, now faces an even tougher task – winning the marginal seat. He has conceded that it will require extremely hard work to gain a thirteenth parliamentary victory.

Mr Benn, aged 58 and a Bristol MP for 32 years, believes Bristol East ought to return a Labour MP in good times and bad, but if that was true a decade ago it may not be so now.

Profile of Bristol East

Key: % Own Occ 1981 % Loc Auth 1981 % Black/Asian 1981 % Mid of 1981 % Prof men 1982 % students 1979 % BBC/ITN national result: Lab 4,304

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Mr Benn, aged 58 and a Bristol MP for 32 years, believes Bristol East ought to return a Labour MP in good times and bad, but if that was true a decade ago it may not be so now.

One of his biggest difficulties could be the upward social mobility of the local population. About 66 per cent of the electorate are owner-occupiers and only 25 per cent are local authority tenants. Many of the Edwardian terraced houses have been bought by first-time buyers paying between £14,000 and £20,000, and whose political allegiances may well differ from those of their parents.

Craig Seton

Conservative opponent, who has never fought a parliamentary contest, believes party officials who say he is about to make a name for himself as the man who beat Mr Benn.

Few early signs appear to favour Mr Benn whose constituency of Bristol South East disappears under boundary changes. He was rejected as Labour candidate for the much safer Bristol South and won selection for Bristol East, only days after Labour lost overall control of the city council.

He arrived to find confident Conservatives and Liberals, who had built a small but flourishing nest in the heart of his new seat.

City council elections in wards in Bristol East gave the Conservatives 11,579 votes, Labour 11,131 and Liberals 6,143, a Tory majority of 448.

Labour's hold on five wards was reduced to two and the Liberals took two "Labour" seats which Peter Tyer, their parliamentary candidate, believes is a solid base for a strong vote.

Mr Sayeed, aged 35, a shipping and insurance consultant whose grandfather was Indian, previously contested two Greater London Council elections and lost, but he said he will win Bristol East.

Mr Tyer, aged 36, and Orkham area organizer and member of CND, cut his teeth on Liberal politics in Liverpool. He said: "If the Alliance takes off we can do spectacularly well. It is the sort of inner-city seat we can develop and win if we do not do it this time."

Mr Jonathan Sayeed, his

Craig Seton

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What's more, if you're not already a Midland customer, all you need to do is open a Midland current account and you can apply for Eurocheques straight away. There's no need to change your present bank.

Bills expected to beat the deadline

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Legislation giving more security to residents in mobile homes, providing for some social security benefits increases to be calculated by reference to past rather than forecast movements in prices, and establishing a new commission for ancient monuments and historic buildings should survive the decision to call a general election on June 9.

Barring unforeseen difficulties the Mobile Homes Bill, the Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, the Diseases of Fish Bill, the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill, the Marriage Bill, the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill, and motions on the Northern Ireland Act, 1974 (Interim Period Extension) Order and the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978, (Continuance) Order.

The National Heritage Bill establishes boards of trustees of the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Science Museum, the Armories and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London.

The other legislation which will be saved is The Dentists Bill, which increases the number of members elected to dentists to the General Dental Council; the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Bill; the Misce-

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If the item you want

Government battered in Transvaal by-elections as electorate shifts right

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

To the relief of the South African Government, Mr Fanie Botha, the Minister of Manpower and one of the most senior reformist figures in the Cabinet, managed to hang on to his Soutpansberg constituency in the north of Transvaal in Tuesday's by-election in a straight fight with Mr Tom Langley of the extreme right-wing Conservative Party. It was one of four crucial by-elections held on Tuesday, all in Transvaal.

The Conservative Party was formed only a little over a year ago, when Dr Andries Treurnicht, a former Cabinet minister and 16 other Government MPs were expelled from the ruling National Party.

Mr Botha had a narrow escape, winning by a majority of only 621 votes compared with the majority of 3,467 he had at the last general election in 1981 over two smaller right-wing groups. One of these has since merged with the Conservatives. The other, the Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP), agreed not to field a candidate this time. The Nationalists' share of the vote slumped to 52.7 per cent from 63.4 per cent in 1981.

The far-right's biggest coup was Dr Treurnicht's sweeping victory in the Waterberg constituency, where the Conservatives garnered 46.9 per cent of the vote compared with the Nationalists' 31.4 per cent. The HNP, which is an earlier offshoot of the National Party and even more fanatically racist than the Conservatives, picked up the remainder.

In 1981 Dr Treurnicht half Waterberg for the Government with 58.1 per cent of the votes cast. The dramatic slump in the Government's position clearly owes a good deal to the loyalty many voters felt to Dr Treurnicht personally. Had the Waterberg swing been repeated in Soutpansberg, Mr Botha would have lost.

The Government regained the affluent, upper middle-class Waterkloof constituency in Pretoria, which had been



Andries Treurnicht: A sweeping victory

occupied by Mr Langley for the Conservatives until he resigned to fight Mr Botha in the Soutpansberg, fairly comfortably holding off a challenge from the Liberal Progressive Federal Party (PPF).

Both the Nationalists and the Progressives saw their share of the poll decline by just under 14 per cent, with the Conservatives taking 19 per cent of the votes in this supposedly "liberal" Afrikaner constituency.

The fourth by-election was held in the gold-mining constituency of Carletonville to the south-west of Johannesburg to fill a vacant seat on the Transvaal Provincial Council. The turnout here was much lower than the 78 to 80 per cent recorded elsewhere. The National Party held the seat with a reduced majority, but its 45.1 per cent share of the poll was exceeded by the 48.1 per cent cast for the Conservatives and HNP candidates combined.

The indifference of the country's 21 million black Africans was neatly summed up in a cartoon in the *Sowetan*, the main daily newspaper for blacks, which showed a black woman and her small granddaughter walking past election posters urging "Vote NP, Vote CP", and so on.

Nkomo daughter takes drugs overdose

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

A daughter of Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwe opposition leader in exile in Britain, attempted suicide at the weekend by taking a drug overdose.

Mrs Johanna Nkomo, wife of Mr Nkomo and mother of Thandwe, aged 27, said by telephone from Bulawayo that her daughter had tried to kill herself because she was distraught over the continuing detention without trial of her husband, Mr John Ndlovu.

For the past few weeks, Mrs Nkomo said, her daughter was "always crying, refusing to eat". Last Saturday, she added, Thandwe was rushed to Bulawayo central hospital after a crying fit and the discovery in her bedroom of an empty bottle of sleeping tablets.

Mrs Nkomo said her daughter had not been allowed to see Mr Ndlovu in detention. The

The girl asks: "Granny what is a vote?" Otherwise the paper did not devote a single line to coverage of the elections.

The Government has been badly wounded, but not as grievously as it at one time feared, by the results of the four by-elections which show a continuing, strong, rightward shift in the country's all-white politics.

The by-elections are seen here as a mini-poll on the Government's controversial constitutional reforms, which had their first reading in the House of Assembly in Cape Town last week. The Government has promised to submit them to a full-scale white referendum before they are implemented.

The Government's aim is to set up a new, racially segregated, tri-cameral Parliament for the country's 4.6 million whites, 2.7 mixed-race Coloureds and 850,000 Indians, but to retain overall control in white hands through a complex veto mechanism and a powerful executive presidency that would replace the present Westminster-type constitutional model.

Although he put a bold face on the results, Mr P W Botha, the Prime Minister and leader of the National Party, acknowledged that the Government's once monolithic Afrikaner base was now deeply fissured. He promised to make an "in-depth study of the deep division of the voters" and to evaluate the implications.

Throughout the election campaign, the constitutional reforms were denounced by far-right parties as heralding the end of undiluted white supremacy, while the Liberal Progressive Federal Party, at present the main opposition, castigated them as cosmetic and fraudulent.

The main blow to the Government is the psychological one of suffering in Waterberg its first loss of a parliamentary seat to a party to its right since it came to power in 1948.

The National Party held the seat with a reduced majority, but its 45.1 per cent share of the poll was exceeded by the 48.1 per cent cast for the Conservatives and HNP candidates combined.

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Labour Party official had link with KGB man, Hawke says

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, last night named Mr David Combe, the former National Secretary of the Australian Labour Party, as having links with Mr Valery Ivanov, a First Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Canberra, who was expelled from Australia on April 22 as an agent of the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service. The revelation has shaken the new Labour Government.

The Prime Minister said that the deliberate cultivation by Mr Ivanov of the relationship with Mr Combe, now a lobbyist in Canberra, and the stage that it had reached on Labour's assumption to office was one of the reasons, but not the only one, which led to the Government's decision to expel Mr Ivanov.

Mr Combe spent much of yesterday afternoon with Mr Gareth Evans, the Federal Attorney-General, and officers of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), including the Director-General. In those discussions Mr Combe gave details of his professional activities as a lobbyist and his past relationships with the Soviet Union and the Soviet Embassy.

Earlier, it had been revealed that Mr Hawke had banned Labour ministers from having any contact with Mr Combe in his capacity as a lobbyist. Mr

personnel involved.

Mr Valery Ivanov: Expelled from Australia last month.

Combe was National Secretary of the Labour Party for eight years until his retirement in 1981, since when he has become one of Canberra's best-known lobbyists.

Demands for Mr Combe's services have increased sharply since the election of the Labour Government in March. He is one of the few lobbyists in Canberra with an intimate knowledge of how the Labour Government works and the

personnel involved.

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personnel involved.

The 'disappeared ones'

Junta fails to still storm of protest

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

If events over the past 10 days are anything to go by, the Argentine military junta's attempt to put an end to the issue of the "disappeared ones" has failed.

On April 29 the junta issued its "final document on the war against subversion and terrorism" in the 1970s, which proclaimed that the thousands of persons who disappeared should be considered dead "for all legal and administrative purposes".

The document was widely criticized by Argentine human rights organizations, political parties, the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy and public opinion in general. Internationally, there were protests from Italy, France and Spain, whose nationals are among the missing, as well as from the EEC. The Pope and Señor Javier Pérez Del Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, have made critical comments.

It is clear that military officers expected a wave of protests, but hoped that it would eventually, like a passing storm, blow over. This is not the case.

Developments on last Monday are symptomatic. General Cristino Nicolaides, the Army Commander, ordered the arrest of retired Colonel Bernardo José Menéndez, for speaking out against the junta's document. Colonel Menéndez, who was Deputy Interior Minister during the presidency of General Leopoldo Galtieri, has joined the Peronist Party since he stood down from active service.

He had said that the junta "cannot automatically close that tremendous period in Argentine contemporary history". He added that "justice will be done" in the cases of those who committed excesses in the counter-insurgency campaign. The colonel also said that the "definitive solution" to the issue of the "disappeared ones" lay in the hands of the next elected administration.

In a parallel development, Judge Fernando Zavalía has ordered the three commanders-in-chief, who make up the ruling military junta, to supply "all information in their possession" on the abduction and murder of Elena Holmberg. Señora Holmberg, a senior

reaction to the junta's document from church leaders have been particularly strong. Mgr Vicente Zeppe, the Bishop of Santa Fe, has said that the junta's decision to describe "torture, kidnaps, clandestine murders, detention without trial, the handing of children of the victims to unknown people and the shameless pillage of Argentine homes by para-military or para-police elements, as acts of service, is unprecedented".

Rabbi Marshall Meyer has described the junta's document as "a profanation of God's name".

Uganda lifts deadline on compensation

By Richard Dowden

The Uganda Government has lifted the time limit on claims for compensation for property expropriated by President Amin in 1972.

An Act passed by the Uganda Parliament in March this year set a 90-day time limit on the claims and the British Government asked that the deadline should be extended. Mr Malcolm Rixford, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said in a written reply in the House of Commons yesterday that the Foreign Office would be passing on this news to the claimants by circular letter.

Meanwhile, Mr Shafiq Arai, the Uganda High Commissioner in London, has denied there will be any discrimination between Asian and non-Asian claimants. "All applications will be considered by one committee, whether they are from white or brown Britons, on the basis of absolute equality," he said.

The recent Ugandan legis-

Mr Hawke said last night that the Government believed Mr Combe had committed no criminal offence and that there was no foundation for any allegations that he was a Soviet spy. The statement in Parliament came after demands from the opposition that the Government name the senior Labour Party person alleged to have had links with Mr Ivanov.

The Federal Cabinet was first told on April 26 in Adelaide, and the full ministry on May 2, that it was not appropriate for them to continue associating with Mr Combe as a lobbyist. The reason given then was that while ministers should be accessible it was not appropriate that a former party official, such as Mr Combe, should have any special advantages as a result of his previous status.

The decision was made then, and endorsed without question by both the Cabinet and the ministry, that Mr Combe should not have lobby relations with any ministers. Yesterday Mr Hawke made it clear that there was another consideration underlying that recommendation that was not raised at the two meetings but was discussed with the Cabinet subcommittee on national and international security. The subcommittee had considered the association between Mr Combe and Mr Ivanov.



Lawyers' strike halts Seveso trial

Monza (AP) - A strike by lawyers here forced the postponement yesterday of the trial of five chemical company executives involved in Italy's worst environmental accident. About 100 people wearing gas masks and white overalls (shown above) marched outside the courthouse carrying mock drums of dioxin. It was one of a series of recent protests in Europe by environmental groups demanding to know the whereabouts of dioxin wastes shipped from the plant.

The lawyers called the strike to press the Government to provide more court staff to speed up proceedings.

The defendants - two Swiss, two West Germans and an Italian - were absent at the opening session on April 18 and did not show up in court yesterday either.

Zia testing chances for Afghan peace

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

Mr Sababzada Yaqub Khan, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, leaves here on Sunday for Peking to begin his rounds of talks with the governments of the five permanent members of the Security Council on the indirect negotiations between Islamabad and Kabul on Afghanistan under United Nations auspices.

The workers ejected students from the campus at Legon, on the capital's suburbs. They said "students who really want to study might have sober reflection on national issues" during the proposed three-year occupation.

The workers moved in after violent undergraduate demonstrations in the streets of the capital last Friday. They also raided the offices of the state-owned newspaper, *The People's Daily Graphic* and *Ghananan Times*. Many students were injured.

Apparently there were more serious clashes last week at the Science and Technology University at Kumasi to the north and at Cape Coast University east of here.

The severity of the latest budget proposals - many consumer goods have been increased in price between 100 and 300 per cent - and Ghana's worsening economic situation were at the centre of the student protests.

The workers' committee issued a statement after the occupation at Legon claiming that the student body had "allowed themselves to be used by reactionary forces against the interest of the people".

Workers seize university in Accra

ACCRA (AFP) - Members of the Accra-Tema Workers' Defence Committee have occupied Ghana University and intend turning its halls and residences into flats for the next three years.

The workers ejected students from the campus at Legon, on the capital's suburbs. They said "students who really want to study might have sober reflection on national issues" during the proposed three-year occupation.

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Red Cross issues plea to world on abuse of Gulf war prisoners

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

After months of unavailing confidential protests to Iran and Iraq regarding brutal treatment and killings of war prisoners, the International Committee of the Red Cross yesterday made public its latest appeal to the two governments, and to the 153 other countries that are parties to the Geneva Conventions.

Its initial private protests to the Gulf belligerents were followed by the visit to Teheran and Baghdad of a senior Red Cross official. He returned to Geneva headquarters with no more than a repetition of earlier assurances already shown to be without substance.

The ICRC statement says its delegates in both countries have been faced with "grave and repeated violations of international humanitarian law", witnessed by themselves in person or by reliable sources. These include summary execution of prisoners, abandoning of enemy wounded on the battlefield, and indiscriminate bombardment of towns and villages.

It describes Iran's violations of the conventions as "the more serious, considering the large number of (Iraqi) prisoners" 45,000-50,000, to most of whom the ICRC no longer has access. Using "continuous delaying tactics", the Iranian authorities have raised obstacles and restrictions, refusing to

allow ICRC delegates to visit some camps.

In addition, Iraqi prisoners are subjected - increasingly since September - to ideological and political pressures, contrary to the conventions, including intimidation, humiliation and forced participation in demonstrations against their own Government. Incidents at some camps have led to deaths and injuries.

In Iraq, the ICRC registered 6,800 Iranian prisoners of war by the beginning of March who, after initial difficulties, have been permitted to correspond with their families, as stipulated in the conventions, and receive letters from their delegates.

But the Red Cross is convinced that other Iranian prisoners - it has the names of several hundred - have been concealed from it since the war started two and a half years ago and are held in places to which delegates do not have access.

So far, the statement adds, only a few dozen such prisoners have been returned to the regular prisoner of war camps in Iraq and registered normally. There has been ill treatment of prisoners in those camps and disorders have been quelled by force.

Both countries so far have repatriated only a few of the seriously wounded who, under the conventions, should be exchanged between warring parties. In violation of the

conventions also, the Iraqi Army has moved "tens of thousands" of Iranian civilians into Iraqi territory.

The ICRC says its appeal to all countries party to the conventions has been issued in the hope they can induce Iran and Iraq to ensure international humanitarian law is applied and violations ended. In particular, it urges that, as provided for in the conventions, protecting powers be appointed to represent the belligerents' interests in each other's territory.

It hopes the appeal will be heeded and the importance of its mission and the rule of law recognized "in the transcending interest of humanity and as a step to the restoration of peace".

In the context of ICRC operations generally, a public appeal is in the nature of a last resort. Delegates have clearly been appalled by the ferocity shown by both sides from time to time during the hostilities.

Bogus degrees

Charlotte, North Carolina (AP) - FBI agents seized records from Arizona to Florida at the climax of a three-year investigation into "diploma mills" in eight states that sold false university degrees to "hundreds of people in every profession".

They said indictments could follow against 38 mail-order colleges.



Tearful reunion: After 35 years Mr Cuihixi, aged 49, a Chinese peasant (left) meets former Marine Roy Sibert of Ohio, on his arrival in San Francisco. Mr Sibert befriended him "like a father" in war-torn China when he was a street urchin.

Record fire damages enrich lawyers

From Christopher Thomas, New York

A \$140m (£90m) damages settlement, the biggest in US legal history, has been agreed in a lawsuit resulting from a fire at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas in 1980 in which 84 people died.

The settlement, to be met by the hotel and other defendants, will make a panel of 10 lawyers rich overnight because the 1,357 claimants they represent agreed at the outset to pay a fee of 5 per cent of the

final award.

Negotiations are continuing with 10 other claimants but they are expected to settle soon. Still more money is likely to be forthcoming when a lawsuit against 26 more defendants is heard.

Mr John Cummings, liaison counsel for the legal panel and a Las Vegas lawyer specializing in disaster cases, said that his personal fee was "almost adequate".

Most of the remaining defendants are manufacturers of plastic products that burnt and emitted toxic gases that Mr Cummings said caused all 84 deaths. Another 700 people were injured in the fire.

MGM's portion of the damages is \$75m. The second largest payment of \$10.5m will be made by a company that installed the heating and air conditioning. An electrical contractor will pay \$10m.

UN asks for cash to halt march of deserts

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi

The world's developed nations were accused here yesterday of paying lip service to the protection of the environment while starving the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) of the funds it needs to coordinate urgently needed work.

Dr Mostafa Tolba, UNEP's executive director, who opened the annual meeting of the organizations governing council here yesterday, said: "Nations consistently affirm the crucial importance of the environmental mandate while keeping UNEP and its partners in the environmental field hopelessly underfunded."

He accused governments of calling for environmental action plans and then allowing them to gather dust.

He said a world plan, for instance, to counter the spread of deserts was being treated as a "talking shop", while little is being done to raise the funds to carry out the action plan.

Dr Tolba expressed profound concern over the recent oil spill in the Gulf. "I appeal for the nations concerned to lay aside political differences so that the countries of the region can come together to deal with this potentially dangerous situation," he said.

UNEP and other United Nations agencies were fully prepared to participate in efforts to overcome the effects of the spill from an oil-drilling platform in the area damaged in the Iran-Iraq war.

Dr Tolba said UNEP was facing problems because pledges of financial support had fallen well short of expectations. The governing council will have to accept a scaling down of its operations.

Instead of the budgeted \$85m (£66m) expected to become available since UNEP in 1984 and 1985, only \$65m (£43m) will materialize if contributions continue at the present rate.

Without lead: The average British motorist could expect to pay about £45 more a year to run a car after 1985 as the price of driving on lead-free petrol.

This was the figure calculated for a special conference on lead in petrol called by the European Environmental Bureau and the European Consumer Union Bureau which met in Brussels yesterday, Ian Murray writes.

A report produced by Mrs Lesley Yeoman, of the British Consumer Association, showed that a lead-free engine would add about £50 to the price of a car.

Senate compromises on Salvador aid

From Melvin Ali, Washington

President Reagan is putting guerrillas fails because of funding cuts by Congress.

Meanwhile, the sugar export quota freed by the US reduction would be added to the quotas of Nicaragua's three neighbours - Honduras, Costa Rica and El Salvador.

They generally support President Reagan's Central America policy. Honduras would get 52 per cent of it, Costa Rica 30 per cent and El Salvador 18 per cent.

"By denying to Nicaragua a foreign exchange benefit resulting from the high US sugar price, we hope to reduce the resources available to that country for financing its military build-up and its support for subversion and extremist violence in the region," a White House statement said.

Nicaragua last year earned about \$15.5m in sugar sales to the United States.

Washington embargoed Cuban sugar imports more than 20 years ago, and Cuba now heavily depends on Moscow to buy its sugar crop.

• SAN SALVADOR: The Salvadorean Army said yesterday that government troops had recaptured the village of Cincuera in north-east El Salvador, which had been captured by left-wing guerrillas on Saturday. The commander of the Tejutepeque unit said his forces had inflicted heavy casualties, but gave no figures.

Thousands back Ethiopia call-up with war songs

Addis Ababa (AFP) - Old warrior songs rang through Revolution Square here yesterday as tens of thousands of people demonstrated in support of last week's Government proclamation launching national military service.

The crowd, estimated to be one of the biggest of its kind in recent years, carried banners and chanted slogans backing the decree that legalized conscription in Ethiopia for the first time. Traditional battle songs were sung during the six-hour rally addressed by Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the head of state.

In his speech Colonel Mengistu recalled that weakened defences had caused disasters in past revolutions.

The ruling military council of Dergue, announced on May 3, that all citizens between the ages of 18 and 30 would be eligible for conscription.

Paris seeks 30bn-franc EEC oil loan

From Diana Geddes
Paris

M. Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister, has confirmed that France is seeking a loan from the EEC, believed to be nearly 30 billion francs (£3.7 billion). It is designed to strengthen its foreign reserves, severely depleted by both the Government's efforts to defend the franc on the foreign exchange markets and by France's huge foreign trade deficit.

It is the third time in the past six months that the Government has sought multi-billion dollar foreign loans. It is likely to be granted and it will bring France's estimated gross foreign debt to more than \$50 billion (£31 billion), double the level when the Socialists came to power two years ago.

France raised a \$4 billion loan on international markets last November, and a further loan from Saudi Arabia at the beginning of this year, which was believed to be between \$2 billion and \$4 billion.

The Government has applied for the loan from the EEC "oil facility", which was set up in 1975 after the first oil shock, to help member states with severe balance of payments difficulties. One of the conditions for such a loan is that the borrower give assurances to the EEC that the necessary measures will be taken to correct its trade imbalance.

Distasteful though it may be for the French Government to have to submit its economic policies for review by its European partners, it is considered less humiliating than having to obey the IMF, which an international loan would have been likely to entail. The EEC Finance Ministers are expected to approve the loan at their meeting on May 16.

In the seven weeks since the franc was devalued, the Bank of France has restored to its foreign reserves more than the 50 billion francs which it is believed to have spent in defence of the French currency in the months leading up to the realignment of the European Monetary System in March.

The franc is now holding up well against the other EMS currencies, but a new attack could come at any time, particularly if the latest austerity measures do not appear to be bearing fruit quickly enough.

The Government wishes to be better prepared this time. It does not want to have to seek a further foreign loan when the franc is weak and when such a move would only aggravate speculative pressures.

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Spain to send Nazi back to Netherlands

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

A former member of the Nazi SS, sentenced for crimes during the Second World War, is to be extradited to The Netherlands, a Madrid court decided yesterday.

Auke-Bert Pattist, born in Utrecht and now aged 62, has been living in Spain for more than 30 years, recently running a language school in Oviedo. He was arrested by the Spanish police last February.

The decision could have repercussions for other former Nazis who came to Franco's Spain after 1945.

The Dutch authorities originally asked for Mr Pattist's extradition under their treaty with Spain in 1979. He had been sentenced by a Dutch court to life imprisonment for joining the forces of an enemy of The Netherlands, and for detaining and ill-treating Dutch citizens, many of whom went to concentration camps.

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ICL

We should be talking to each other.

SPECTRUM

The cleaning classes move upstairs

MODERN TIMES

A sideways look at the British way of life

Back in the old days, when Mrs Dale was still telling her cleaning lady Mrs Maggs how worried she was about Jim, everyone knew where they were with the daily.

She was the jolly, dependable woman of an indeterminate age who wore a flowered apron crossing over at the front and tied her hair in a scarf to keep out the dust. She usually smoked, but never dropped so much ash that her carpet sweeper clogged. Even Tommy Handley new where he was with his, she always wanted to know if she could "do him now".

But in the last decade the daily help, the domestic, the char, or "the lady that does", as she has variously been called, has been transformed. She has been getting younger, and she wouldn't be seen dead in an apron. The modern cleaning lady wears a jogging suit that clings to her thighs, has well varnished finger nails, refuses to clean ovens, and can, on occasions, be a man.

Someone in jeans is now the answer to the age old quest for a household servant. Out-of-work actors, poets, philosophers, violinists, young mothers and debutante daughters are taking the place of the little old lady from round the corner who has been "coming in to do" for years.

The days of the twenty, the between maid who helped out in both the kitchen and the house; or even the all-purpose skivvy have gone. The cleaning operative is with us. As the sociologist Dr Paul Arthre-Cough pointed out recently "The servant is emerging as our newest privileged class".

Certainly the new breed of cleaning lady or cleaning man would not disgrace a dinner party. On the night after the Grand National I was seated in North Wales beside a clean cut young man with delicate pronunciation and a lemon pullover who informed me just after the kipper pâté that he "did 11 loos yesterday". It was not an exception, he did them every day. "A cleaner wouldn't be seen dead in an overall", he said confidentially. "They much prefer track suits, much sexier."

The employment agencies have already detected the change. "We find we tend to be getting younger women these days, aged about 30 or so" is how the famous Mrs Lines Agency in Kensington, which has been supplying residential and daily help for 90 years, explains it. "They come from a very nice class of home, and want to do a little part time work, perhaps to fit in with their children's schooling. But we only get about one man a week, and we can't often help him".

Men either set up on their own, or go to one of the agencies that specialize in supplying temporary domestic help.

Recession or not, the demand for domestic help has never faltered. Few people may be prepared to admit these days that they employ servants, but the desire to hire someone to vacuum the carpet, look after the children, dash round with a duster and do the ironing is as great as it has ever been. Enter the young mother and the resting actor. Even the once-fashionable Filipino maid and the smart Spanish girl have waned in the face of fiercer immigration control and the recession; while the jovial black lady is now rather more often found in hospitals or offices than in family homes.

The middle class family may no longer be able to afford a Margaret Powell, who started as a maid in Hove in 1925 at the age of 15 for £24 a year with half a day off a week, but in her place has come the au pair, the mother's help, and the different kind of cleaning lady. As the boundaries of the middle class have spread so the old distinctions have blurred. The new daily helps are not part of the old hierarchy. By the middle of the 1960s it was quite respectable for a daughter to take a cordon bleu cookery course and do a little light domestic work.

Admittedly the middle classes were not prepared to go the lengths of Lord Raglan's valet, and share the siege of Sebastopol so that they could continue to give him lunch, but they were quite prepared to become founder members of the black economy, undetected by the Inland Revenue, who received their wages in private and in cash.

Not that their pay is always astronomical. Not all that long ago the Dowager Countess of Radnor was still paying her housekeeper £2.50 a week in addition to her free flat for 12 hours' work, but they have since parted. There is at least one judge in Chelsea who pays his cleaning lady only £1.50 an hour, even though the rate in London is now £2 and above; and the employer is expected to pay the costs of transport, food and to provide as much coffee (tea is very much the old style) as is necessary.

Indeed the change that has overtaken the domestic daily has also begun to spread to office cleaners as well. The older Mrs Mopps are being steadily replaced by younger men and women who are using more elaborate, and expensive, equipment. There is certainly at least one former London bus driver, for example, vacuuming the floors of a television company in the evenings, even if the rates of pay are not quite as generous as they are for a daily.

But the gentrification of the daily has not quite changed everything. As the lady in the Kensington agency puts it: "Our clients still want someone with experience in their home, who won't ruin their Chinese tapestry, and will be able to iron their silk underclothes properly".

And my cleaning lady has just bought herself a new cotton housecoat, which is positively covered in flowers, and buttons down the front. But she insists she isn't going to wear anything underneath it in the summer.

Geoffrey Wansell



Many hands of light labour, left to right: Bridget, Pauline, Annie, Ellen, and Jean

Good cleaners attract possessive adjectives like mirrors attract dust: ask any employer about a coveted daily and he or she will launch into a colourful description of "my Hilda", "my extra pair of hands", "my Mrs Fix-it". I've even heard a horribly patronizing "my little treasure". Nodding wives at lunch may laugh at her funny ways, husbands may clench teeth as they fail to find some necessary article of clothing, washed and whisked away by the daily - but both would sooner bite out the tongue than criticize. For a good cleaning person, nowadays, is hard to find.

What dailies think about their employers, however, is a potentially more interesting subject, but one which, at a moment's thought will reveal, you are unlikely ever to discover. Rose would have died before spilling the beans about the Bellamys and thought today's "help" thankfully comes in a less obsequious mould: it will be as unforthcoming. After all, discretion apart, who wants to risk losing a job as a result of talking to a journalist about an employers' foibles, fancies or habits

which, like odd socks, are probably best ignored.

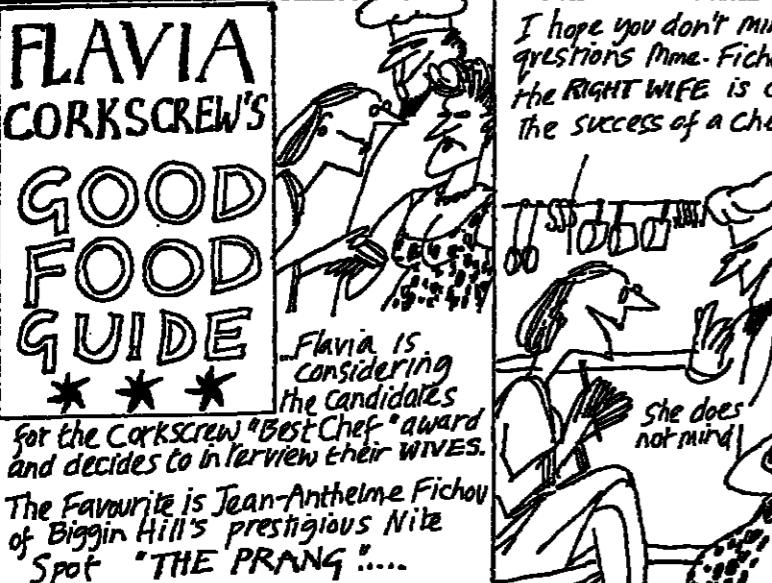
However, since the inter-dependency - some would say symbiosis - exists, a good compromise seemed to be to let employers talk and dailies be photographed. This was when the problems started.

The first of a series of frantic second-thought phone calls came from a lady who had a great deal to say about her Danish au pair (keen to find photographic fame in *The Times*) before she realized that the Lorelei's visa had expired and they might both be "in hot water with the Home Office". The suave young solicitor who had raved about his Filipino regretted that she refused to be photographed. A third lady was more than happy to talk - anonymously - about "my delightful young black man" (she always prefers to employ men because she thinks it demands to ask another woman to get down on her knees and scrub). The young man agreed at 11.15 pm to say that his parents had

said that if he was he would be leaving home. A charming actor who cleaned when resting thought his career prospects might be a little tarnished if he appeared as "home help rather than Henry V". Yet more dailies wanted their names changed to lessen the likelihood of a visit from the taxman or the DHSS; and middle-class housewives withdrew the offer of a friendly chat after husbands muttered about stamps.

And so it went on. I shall never quite be sure whether my own diminutive Chinese daily (or in my case "weekly") refused to be photographed through a natural and very real Oriental reserve, or whether she too feared officialdom. I do know that a brown, if not downright black, economy is as busy as work in the withdrawing rooms of Chelsea as it is in the kitchens of Camden Town - though not I hasten to add in any of the households mentioned here.

Judy Froshaug



Light the beacon, sound the tocsin

MOREOVER... Miles Kington

So it was June 9. The wires of the world hummed with the glad tidings, while satellites in the sky hiccupped slightly and got on with it. Sleepy herdsmen in the Sudan barked at each other and whispered: "Maggie has chosen a date". In Australia, the bushwhackers ceased momentarily from whacking the bush and said in unison: "So the old girl has decided not to run her five years, but to do what is best for the country. How wise." In old Kabul, even, the editor of the *Old Kabul Times* told his lead feature writer that he would have to hold over his indepth interview with the Soviet commander and write a hasty column on the SDP threat.

In Britain itself, the excitement could only be compared to a new influenza virus. A chain of bonfires was lit stretching from Land's End (admission £10) to John O'Groats (free), and a crowd of excited teenagers danced round each blazing beacon, smashing shop windows and looting videos. In Wales, the news was announced in two languages, and understood in one. A lonely PC on the beat in the Lake District heard the news over his walkie-talkie and decided not to take action, as no crime seemed to have been committed.

The news was even flashed to places where Maggie Thatcher's name meant nothing. Samarkand, Istanbul, Newcastle upon Tyne. In China, where they had not had a genuine three-cornered election for more than 1,500 years, the excitement was barely controllable, and the announcement was flashed

from hilltop to hilltop by semaphore. As there are over 4,000 characters in Chinese semaphore, and each transmission needs a team of 30 skilled flag-wavers, progress was slow; in one province, the news actually caught up with the previous announcement, that Roger Bannister had beaten four minutes for the mile.

Had she timed it right? That was the question that grizzled old newsmen in suburban Addis Ababa were asking one another. Many of them had not eaten properly for over two months, but their hunger was forgotten in the excitement of debating whether the recent boundary changes could compensate for lost Tory votes. In Nairobi, where David Owen is known as "stave-little-devil" and Michael Foot is known, if at all, as "he-who-has-brought-his-hair-from-a-bigger-man", spontaneous folk songs were composed to the effect that if this swing were repeated all over the country, the Tories would win by more than 600 seats, which is obviously ridiculous, what is your comment on that, Gerald Kaufman?

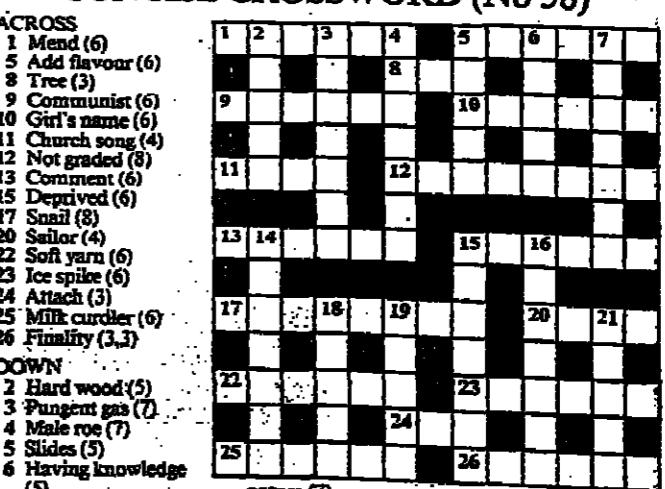
In the Kremlin, the lights burn late as Yuri Andropov and a team of crack British defectors worked through the night, wondering whether to throw their weight behind Maggie Thatcher and thus

defeat her, as they have done so successfully with the Socialists in the recent German election. In the White House, the candles were guttering low, when the news of June 9 arrived, which

Labour candidates were restoring the shine on their regional accents, except Tony Benn. And deep in the heart of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, candidates clad in tartan, coal-dust and hand grenades were putting the finishing touches to their election addresses.

Only in one place was there complete calm. In the civilized world there was just one spot where June 9 meant nothing: more than the space between June 8 and June 10. Yes, in the Moreover offices the only sound to be heard was the deep snoring of experts who have heard it all before.

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DOWN: 1 Boys, 2 Newtish, 3 Throb, 4 Frier, 5 Rock, 6 Irate, 10 Local, 11 Douse, 12 Forgozen, 13 Numb, 14 Edam, 15 Opera, 20 Ozona, 21 Shovel, 22 Sung, 23 Pray.

THE ARTS

My friend Wilfrid Hyde-White is 80 today and still living. I hasten to add lest some should think they are reading his obituary, in Studio City, California. His exact address, if he will forgive me mentioning it, is 3687 Willow Crest. There are not of course, anything like three thousand other properties on the Crest surrounding his. In Los Angeles there are boulevards with tens of thousands of blocks but they stretch from the desert to the ocean, whereas Willow Crest is (when you discover it, and this is by no means a simple task) merely a cul-de-sac in vague proximity to the Universal Picture Studios.

Long before I first met him, when he was a young actor in the Tom Walls Company at the Aldwych, he was nicknamed "Dasher" White. "Why was that, do you suppose?" I once asked Ben Travers, who was the resident playwright. Ben had forgotten, but, discussing our mutual friend, he opined that Wilfrid was the least curious man he had ever known: "He never really wanted to find out anything, he was cocooned by his upbringing in a country deanery, a 'Bchester Towers' man".

That lack of curiosity does not of course apply to the pedagogies of racehorses, of which he retains an encyclopedic knowledge, rivalled only by the late Dorothy Paget. Wilfrid's approach to life is that of royalty visiting a glue factory. He will ascertain, if he has to, how the substance is created and then dismiss it instantly and permanently from his mind.

Dorothy Paget was one of his most devoted fans. She made a point of attending his performances, reserving a box, but seldom arrived to see anything but the last few moments of the play. Once, when Wilfrid had forgone the last line, she did not seek

Wilfrid Hyde-White (right), master of comedy and horse-player extraordinary, today becomes an octogenarian. Robert Morley, his long-time friend and colleague, pays due tribute

Star's orders

him out in his dressing room, convinced he had mistaken the theatre. Wilfrid missed his customary tryst with her at the Café de Paris, but the situation was remedied a few evenings later when they finally met and I was invited to join them. Neither touched their food, so immersed were they in the finer points of horse-breeding. Miss Paget hastened to get the discussion over so that she could attack her lobster while Noel Coward was singing to her. There was nothing apparently she enjoyed more than Coward with Howard Thermidor. At one moment she summoned the head waiter and asked if Mr Coward could postpone his cabaret for half an hour, as she and Wilfrid were so much enjoying themselves.

Mr Coward had no intention of skipping that evening, having completed his stint at a month

before. I was of course perfectly aware of the fact but had not wanted to miss a free supper. Miss Paget, hearing the news, was immensely relieved and suggested that whoever was preparing to entertain her should be paid off for the evening and, of course, thanked for his pains. Wilfrid snatched the cheque book from her hand. "Let the fellow sing," he told her. "Probably some of them want to hear him." Miss Paget attacked her lobster. I asked Wilfrid afterwards whether he had not thought her behaviour a bit strange. "Wouldn't you be strange?" he retorted. "If you owned Golden Miller?"

It is easy to dismiss my old friend's approach to the theatre as a casual acceptance of the fact that a play was written to enable him to get the laughs and, if it failed so to provide, would have to be rewritten - preferably by himself, often on the

first night and always at matinees. I remember a matinée of one of Mr William Douglas Home's pieces, when Wilfrid interpolated an entire scene at a crucial moment of the plot, while he pondered what to call a new yearling which had mysteriously come into his possession after the curtain had risen. Fellow members of the cast were finally and in desperation persuaded to suggest names suitable to its breeding, but Wilfrid stopped them to scorn, remarking the only possible solution was Coal Scuttle. Then, enormously over-satisfied with his resourcefulness, he returned to the play: "Where were we?" he demanded. "We must finish this or some of them will be missing their tea."

He came of a generation of actors who often, and sometimes it must be said mistakenly, had no great respect for playwright or director. He and I



I once persuaded him to play in one of my own concoctions, *Hippo Dancing*. The play opened in Dublin fairly well but not nearly well enough for Wilfrid: in those days he toured with a Rolls-Royce and a minder. They were both fairly old, but the minder was a former girlfriend and she appeared in my bedroom "in the morning after" with an alibi. "Unless Wilfrid's part is radically improved by Blackpool, I shall withdraw him." That gave me a week. Wilfrid, of course, never referred to my dilemma.

I gave him the new scene on the plane, he agreed to rehearse, and we played it to stony silence on the Friday. On the way back to our hotel, Wilfrid stopped "the minder and got out. He is surely not leaving me like this?" I asked myself, but he had alighted to be sick. For the first time, I realized how much he cared. We gave the scene a new beginning next night and had no trouble with it thereafter. When the run finished, Wilfrid announced his intention of leaving for the States. "I really cannot stand another winter in England with the income tax and *Violetta* - here he announced his new fiancée. Then he apologised. "That was a very caddish thing to say about the income tax."

He once made a brief but unnecessary appearance in the Bankruptcy Court, where even the Official Receiver fed him the line: "If you cannot tell us how you spent such a large sum in so short a time, perhaps you could tell us what will win the Gold Cup at Ascot this afternoon, since I understand you would already like to be on your way?" "Of course, dear fellow," Wilfrid rejoined, and surprisingly named the winner. "Only have a small bet," he cautioned. "We don't want to have to change places, do we?"

Television
Freedom eroded

Pronto Died in Bed (Channel 4) and that, say the Spanish Left, betokens trouble. Last night's edition of 20/20 Vision went on a tour of the battlefield which has now been thrown up between the forces of freedom and repression, as exemplified by the Basque separatists on one side and the Ministry of the Interior on the other.

It might be argued that the Basques, like the Welsh nationalists, are too wild and romantic to represent the common or garden sort of freedom most of us would settle for; it might also be argued that that area is moving towards a situation unpleasantly reminiscent of Ulster.

What this brief essay by Sarah Hargreaves did suggest, however, was that the anti-terrorist measures adopted to deal with ETA are poised to strike at routine civil liberties in the country as a whole. In a recent hunt for an ETA kidnap victim, 16,000 houses were searched in one sector of Madrid; from June 1, all changes in occupancy of flats and houses will have to be notified to the police.

The lawyers and journalists interviewed agreed virtually unanimously that Franco's wish to leave the country "well sewn up" had so far come true: with the forces, police, courts and press largely controlled by his ideological heirs, there was little scope for the liberties promised by the new regime to flourish.

Young men told the treatment they had received at the hands of the police ("They got me to kneel down ... started kicking me in the groin ..."), a lawyer catalogued the incidence of the most popular techniques (plastic bags over heads, electrodes to genitals, sleep deprivation) and the Minister of the Interior, when asked if there was now any police brutality, said "Broadly speaking no."

We met a journalist who was about to go inside for 18 months because he had written satirically in support of the Basque cause. We met another journalist in exile who had publicly named two leading Rightists subsequently murdered by ETA: the line between journalistic freedom and criminal incitement is in this part of the world not easy to draw.

The thoughts-provoking programme was, inevitably, implicitly partisan: the 26-minute format precluded any effective account of the views of the country as a whole, which was a pity.

Two years ago today Robert Nesta Marley died in bed. "So who was this natural mystic man with a gentle voice and revolution in his songs?" asked the Ebony (BBC2) voice-over. The question was largely rhetorical, and the evidence adduced was mostly familiar, but this film fittingly celebrated him. Friends and relations reminisced movingly, archive clips relayed the atmosphere of the performances, but there was no hint of the extraordinary power of Marley's music at its best.

Michael Church

Concert

Philharmonia/
Handley
Festival Hall

If I have a secret vice, it is that I like Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto. It is scarcely possible to admit such things in sophisticated circles, and yet each time I hear the piece it sounds well put together, utterly sure of its melancholic yearning self. As the American critic Paul Rosenfeld wrote, "From it there flows the sadness distilled from all things that are little useless ... Rachmaninov comes among us like a very charming and amiable ghost".

Perhaps we need a few more ghosts among today's music-makers. At any rate, I could have done with something slightly less tangible than John Lill as soloist. In Tuesday's performance, he attacked the pounding chords of the first movement as if dispensing machine-gun fire, and hit the octave melody of the Adagio with a brazen clang, giving each note an equally acid tone. He was certainly sure where he was going all the time (my affection for the work survived playing in a performance where the soloist lost himself hopelessly among the haze of sequences), but when he arrived the noise was not very pleasant.

Vernon Handley, conducting, had a splendid sweep and

authority to his beat: now that Sir Adrian Boult is dead, it is good to know that someone will keep alive that magisterial use of a vast baton controlled by only the most delicate of wrist movements. Handley has been consistently underrated; in what he does best he is undemonstrative but highly effective. Catching a record of Elgar's First Symphony to the ear the other day, I thought the control of detail and pacing so fine that I felt sure it must be Boult's recording - but it was Handley's.

His *Enigma Variations* in the second half of this concert was similarly firm: I liked the deliberate pace of the opening, markings carefully observed, the gentle, unhurried pace of Variation 3 and the expansive but ever-moving "Nimrod". Handley is very good at punctuation: in the finale, he made a long, deep pause before launching into figure 70, which gathered together the accumulated tension admirably. But it was noticeable that - apart from outstanding cello solos (also fine in the William Tell Overture at the start) and brittle, thwacked timpani - Handley did not draw especially good playing from the Philharmonia. There were some ragged string entries, and the performance generally lacked that electric charge which distinguishes the great from the good.

Nicholas Kenyon

Cinema

David Robinson
reports from the
Cannes Festival

Ladies of pleasure

Cannes is turning out to be an actress's festival this year. I have already written, from the film's Budapest premiere, about the extraordinary playing of Mari Török and Lili Monori as the peasant mother and daughter in Zsolt Keczi Kovacs's *Forbidden Relations*.

As *Tiger at the Gates* (Christopher Fry's first title for *La Guerre de Troie n'a pas lieu*) the 1955 Apollo production struck Kenneth Tynan as "the final comment on the superficiality of war" and won over the London public in spite of the tirade, non-psychological characterization, a preference for debate rather than action and the aloof contemplation of great events from long range. These and the other hitherto resisted elements of French classical dramaturgy suddenly became acceptable to the West End.

One reason is that Giraudoux was committed to comedy (almost, it seems, as a moral obligation) and that his treatment of the Helen affair had a passing resemblance to Shaw. More to the point, he had something to say about the nature of war which crossed the cultural boundaries of post-1945 Europe as easily as I

Theatre

The Trojan War
Will Not Take Place

Lyttelton

If it was the National Theatre that halted Giraudoux's British career dead in its tracks with the ill-fated 1960s' production of *Amphitryon 38*, the same organization now makes amends with Harold Pinter's resonant revival of the play which first made Giraudoux's British reputation.

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Brewster Mason: an impossibly feeble Priam

expect it to do again in these pre-nuclear times.

In brief, Giraudoux the former diplomat viewed the conflict of nations as a celestially arranged prize fight, with the combatants carefully dieted and exercised to peak condition and then let loose to destroy each other for the delight of the Olympian ringside observers.

The Trojan War expresses no hope that this state of affairs

can ever be altered. What it does do is expose the operation of fate in the hope that politicians, priests, intellectuals and the public at large will be less taken in by the sanctions that have led the nations of history sleep-walking into a trap prepared by the powers above.

For this reason Giraudoux's temperamental coldness, and his choice of a location removed from the direct sphere of action, fits perfectly with the content and purpose of the work. Rewriting Homeric legend, he brings Hector back from one ruinously victorious campaign determined to close the gates of war for ever.

In this he almost succeeds.

He persuades Paris to release Helen; he outwits the bellies, senators, Demobos and runs rings around the Trojan intelligentsia. It is one comic triumph after another, except where he confronts the unyieldingly phable Helen - a mirror figure who reflects the desires of all who gaze on her - and concludes that "with each victory the prize escapes me".

And sure enough, after his conference with Ulysses and the Greek's decision to pit his cunning against fate instead of a mortal enemy, the pact is broken by a drunken accident and war is declared.

The heart of the play is in this great scene and in Hector's anti-Priam oration to the dead, where he describes war as "the most sordid and hypocritical way of making all men equal". This is Giraudoux speaking.

Most obviously this happens in the case of Nicola Pagetti's Helen, delicate as an eyelid and amazingly conveying the essence of that supposedly unplayable demi-goddess: of becoming the secret fantasy of all who set eyes on her. Other gradually enriching performances come from Annette Crosbie's belligerently pacifist Hecuba and Brewster Mason's impossibly feeble Priam. A certain sense of cost-cutting prevails over Eileen Diss's monumental two-purpose set, but at this address that is not bad thing.

I Irving Wardle

written, endearing and funny, until a shilly lubricious account of the *Jerusalem Lilies* (they needed 11 weeks to make the film) and how their improbable antics got out of hand.

But Mr Eilenbogen's own performance never ceases to be humorously lovable and spontaneous while showing total technical assurance as imaginary truncheons assail him from above and fleas from below. It implicitly condemns all the cells of horror in black and white Africa, and impressed me at every moment that, for all its protagonist's filming, it is live theatre, as live as theatre can be.

Anthony Masters

taught him nature studies, a court martial under fearsome General Blood for starring, while an officer and a gentleman, in a film of fatuous pornography called *The Lily of Jerusalem*.

Interrupted at intervals by reality as his sufferings increase these episodes arise, with unobtrusive subtlety, from the furniture to hand (a vaulting horse with a golf club stuck in it becomes a camel), the occasional nightmarish awareness of what has actually happened and sunny recall of a secure colonial past which tells its own connected tale about that society. They are beautifully

taught him nature studies, a court martial under fearsome General Blood for starring, while an officer and a gentleman, in a film of fatuous pornography called *The Lily of Jerusalem*.

Members of the Company — John Alderton · Richard Briers · George Cole · Pauline Collins · Tom Conti · Ray Cooney · Tom Courtenay · Wendy Craig · Bernard Cribbins · Jim Dale · Judi Dench · Paul Eddington · Frank Finlay · Liza Goddard · Sheila Hancock · Nigel Hawthorne · Dinsdale Landen · Maureen Lipman · Geraldine McEwan · Julia McKenzie · Derek Nimmo · Geoffrey Palmer · Leslie Phillips · Jack Rosenthal · Leonard Rossiter · Donald Sinden · John Standing · Sheila Steafel · Eric Sykes · Michael Williams

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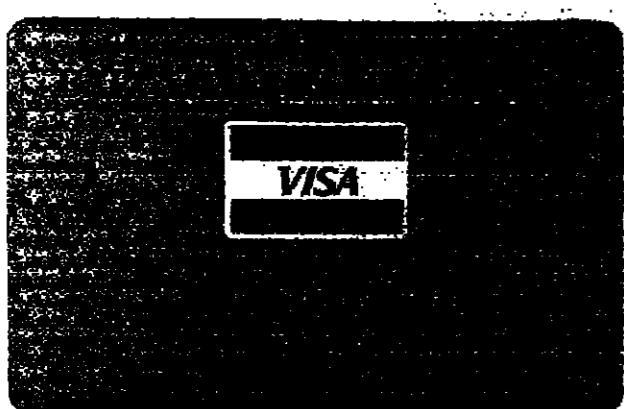
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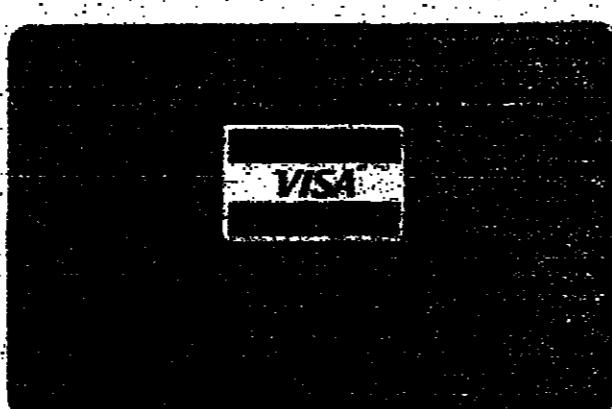
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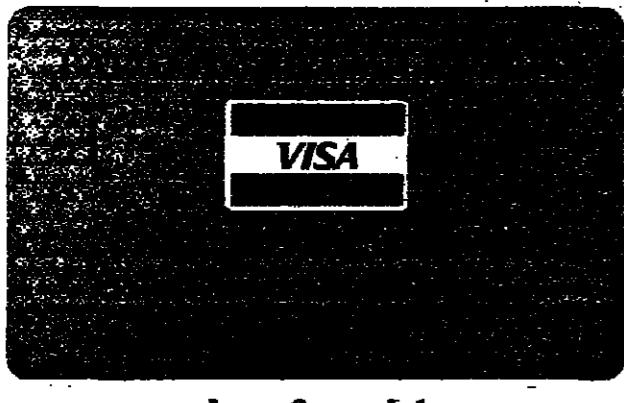
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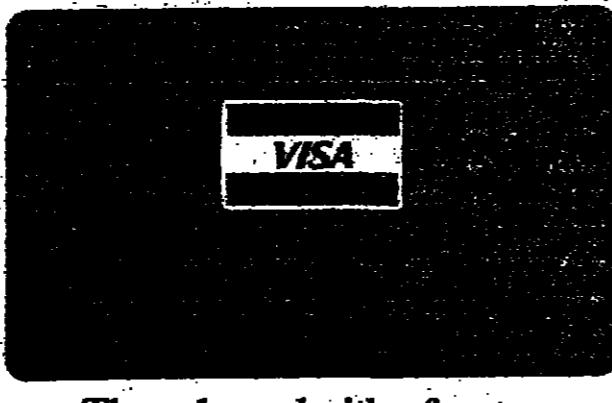
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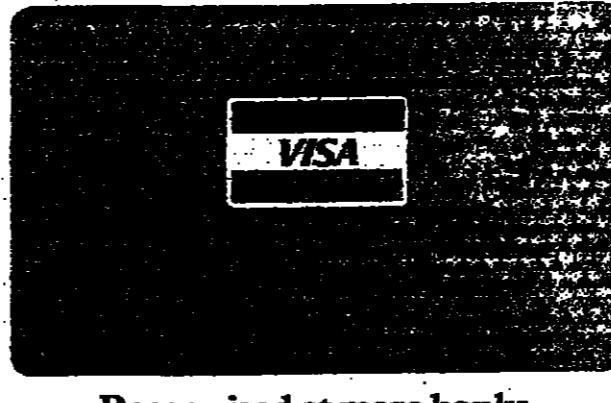
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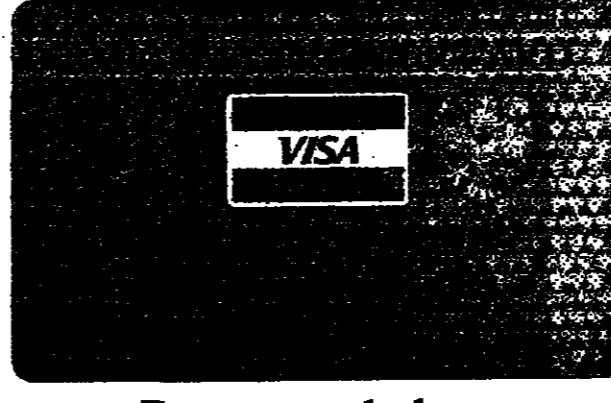
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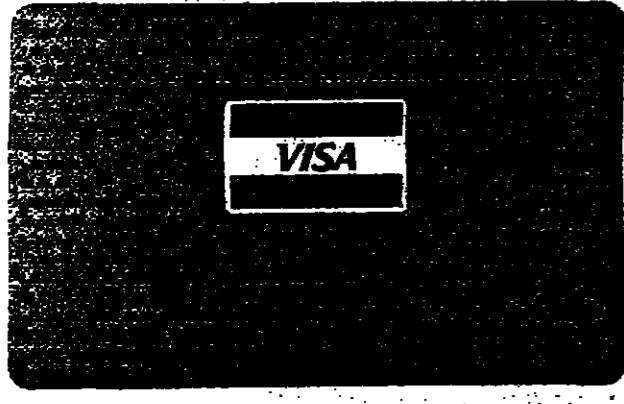
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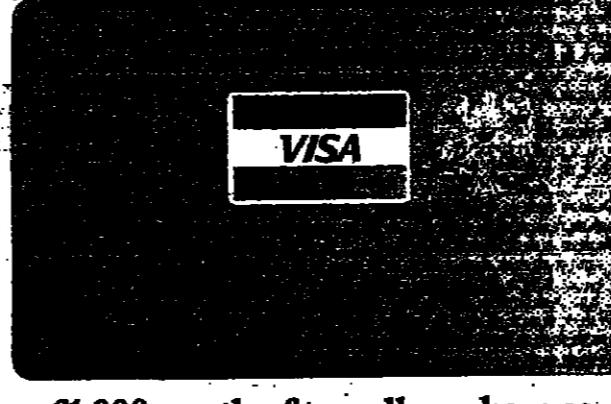
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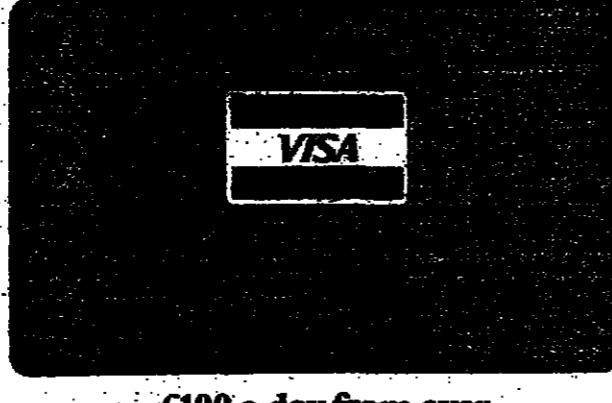
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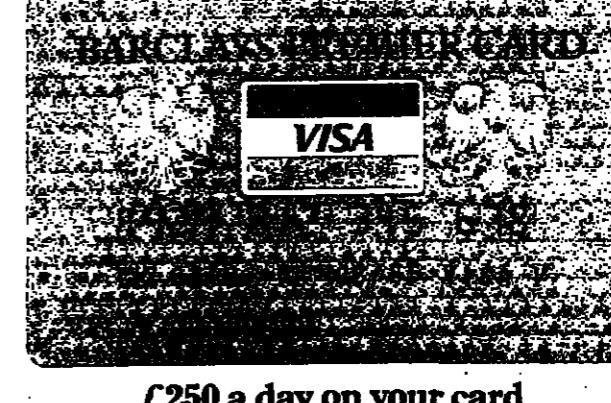
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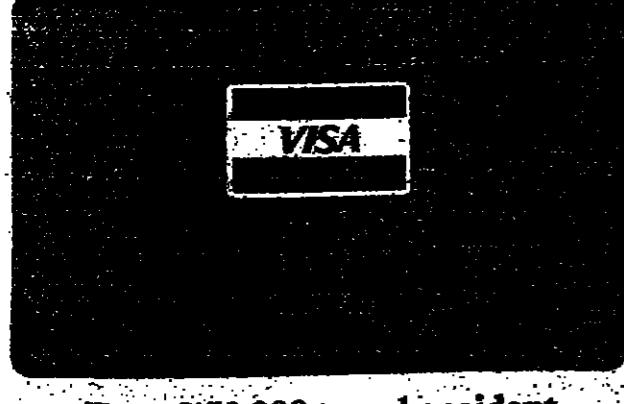
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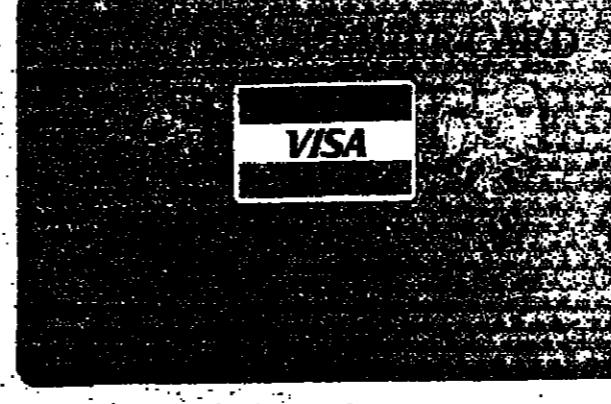
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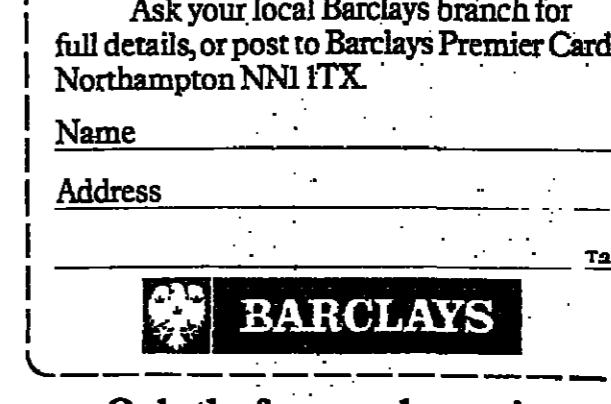
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Monopoly money

Waddingtons, the original Monopolizers, are looking for owners of the first game they put on the market, an initially unsuccessful pastime called Lexicon. Now 50 years old, the game involved making words with cards around a number of whilst and bridge formats. Holders of first issue models will have to prove the veracity of their claims by producing the accompanying 65-page rule book. Games in good condition could be worth as much as £30, and the company is offering a collection of its most recent games in payment. One of these is called My Word, symptomatic of our times. It only runs to four-letter words.

Lost horizons

This week's *Economist* carries a report, appositely headlined "Done-a-bunker Hunt", about Keith Hunt, "who disappeared from Britain last month leaving debts estimated at £18m". It mentions his now wounded companies, including one called Futures Index. Yet just six pages further on there is a half-page advertisement for that same Futures Index inviting *Economist* readers to "Widen your Financial Horizons". "The advertisement had been booked but was officially stopped by the advertisers". The *Economist*'s advertising department said yesterday, "It just slipped through. We shall not be charging them for it". Keith Hunt, wherever you are, that at least is one little bit of money you do not owe.

Stop press

British journalists visiting Sweden as guests of the Foreign Ministry last week had nearly an hour with Olof Palme, the Prime Minister; 45 minutes each with the foreign and defence ministers; in mid-submarine crisis; and 45 minutes with the King and Queen, for which they had the gall to be 10 minutes late. Swedish journalists on a reciprocal visit hosted by the Central Office of Information were offered a meeting with Lord Belstead, a trip to Parliament and a tour of redevelopment sites in Liverpool. With telephone lines between London and Stockholm sizzling, Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, found he could spare them 15 minutes. One of the Swedes said afterwards: "We were very pleased they kept our evenings free."

• *Times are hard but I did not expect Rank Xerox to be reduced to naturalism. A letter from the company apologizing for more than five months' delay in paying £300 for a trade-in ends: "Please bear with us for a little longer."*

Quid pro quo

Sunday Telegraph readers are wasting their money and should definitely switch to the *News of the World*. My proof for this confident assertion is two advertisements for *The Ordnance Survey Atlas of Great Britain* placed by the Literary Guild. One, in this week's *Telegraph Sunday Magazine*, offered the book for £1 plus 95p post and packing. The other, in the same day's *Sunday with the News of the World*, advertised the same book for 50p and with only 45p to add for post and packing. Worse still, the promise is for 40 pages of new maps in the 50p offer, mysteriously shrunk to 35 at twice the price. The choice is clear, and our thanks go to the PHS who spotted the difference.

Dim view

Andrew Faulds, thespian MP for Warley East, suspects London Transport are out to rob us all. Passing through Paddington, he bought a 40p underground ticket from a machine marked: "This machine accepts 5p, 10p, 20p and 50p coins. He put in 50p, and got a ticket, but no change. When he protested at the booking office, another but dimly lit sign was pointed out to him: "Exact fare only to obtain ticket." "I find the introduction of this new system totally deceptive and dishonest," blusters Faulds, and I trust that the management will immediately put this public theft of passengers' monies."

The truth game

Do not believe that television personalities are essentially shallow. Hilary Lawson, the former deputy chief executive of ailing TV-am who left soon after Angela Rippon and Anna Ford, is now writing a book on philosophy. The subject is reflexivity, which he says is "the problem that arises when you want to say there is no truth which means there is truth". Experience at Camden Lock no doubt provides an empirical advantage.



Eight Cumbrians will be spending many of their nights in freezer centres between now and next March, with the blessing of Willie Whitelaw. Sleeping in temperatures as low as -40° centigrade, they are preparing to become the first Britons to climb Everest via the West Ridge route from China, and the Home Secretary, MP for Penrith and the Border, is their patron. The climbers, who range in age from 30 to 43, will, if successful, also be the first from this country to conquer the peak without oxygen supplies. During their training on the Lakeland peaks, they could do worse than nip over to Wigton for a word with Everest veteran, Chris Bonington.

PHS

Can the EEC ever be a fair deal?

Mrs Thatcher has no reason to be defensive in the coming election about her handling of the EEC. She has managed to cut Britain's EEC bill by three quarters between the end of 1979 and the start of 1983. That is a much bigger improvement than Britain achieved in the Wilson renegotiation of 1974-75.

The cut has been achieved because of Mrs Thatcher's aggressive tactics, notably at the Dublin summit in 1979; Lord Carrington's good sense in persuading her to accept a deal she disliked in May 1980; and a remarkable fluke. The fluke was that, in 1981 and 1982, EEC farm spending increased far more slowly than anybody expected.

However, as Mrs Thatcher is likely to discover if she attends next month's EEC summit in Stuttgart, her run of luck seems to be at an end. She appears to think that the summit will approve a cut of some two thirds in Britain's contribution to the budget for 1983. That is most unlikely. The other member states resent the fact that the rebates paid to Britain in the past three years have reduced its EEC bill by 75 per cent, instead of the cut of two thirds that the May 1980 deal was designed to produce. So, they argue, the repayment to Britain in 1983 should be correspondingly smaller.

In any case there is little disposition to be generous to Britain. The EEC is far running out of cash (mainly because farm spending is out of control again, rising by 35 per cent in the past 12 months). And the French and Germans are increasingly anxious about the cost of letting Spain and Portugal into the club.

The danger is that this row will

elapse a far more important issue for Britain: the future shape of the Community's budget. Since Britain joined the EEC, it has been a net payer to Brussels, mainly because agriculture has continued to absorb

'There is little disposition to be generous to Britain'

with lots of farmers pay more. Denmark and France, for example, would pay extra and Britain would pay less. This variable slice would finance all farm spending over and above the amount equivalent to a third of the total EEC budget.

Future increases in VAT should be approved by the 10 member governments and by a three-fifths majority in the European Parliament — but not, as now, by national parliament. This suggestion stands no chance of being accepted, and is an attempt to appease the European Parliament (which is seriously thinking of sacking the whole EEC commission later this year).

The commission's tax proposals are clearly not ideal. The most logical way to finance the EEC budget, as Sir Geoffrey Howe argued in his Hague speech two years ago, is

to tax each country purely according to its relative wealth. This would be simpler and fairer than the complex commission plan. The trouble is that it would involve a revolution in the EEC's present tax system, which was constructed with great difficulty in the late 1960s. Other member states would not wear that.

The commission's proposals represent a reasonable second-best solution. But they have two weaknesses. First, the commission has not developed many convincing ideas for "new policies" on which to spend the extra income.

Already several existing EEC policies, such as the regional policy, are not genuine policies but merely names for inefficient attempts to redistribute cash between countries to make up for the inequitable

This would be simple to operate, and could be introduced without raising the level of VAT. It would also have the advantage that it would be easier to develop sensible EEC policies, since individual countries would look at new proposals on their merits and not on the basis of what national profit or loss might result from them.

The major issue is that it would be very difficult for the EEC then to develop an incomes policy explicitly designed to redistribute money from rich countries to poor ones. Italy, Ireland and Greece — and, in the future, Spain and Portugal — would lose heavily from such a change.

Second, the commission has not devised an effective way to halt the growth of farm spending. Although its proposals would make gainers from farm spending pay more for it, this would not necessarily mean that the spending would be cut — especially since farm ministers have shown little regard in the past for the impact of their decisions on national budgets. Witness Mr Peter Walker's policy over the past four years of regularly putting the interests of British farmers above those of

British taxpayers (the most scandalous aspect of the Thatcher government's EEC policy).

Besides, even if the commission's tax proposals were accepted, Britain's net budget bill would be cut by less than half (and its plans to spend more in Britain is only a hope). This is not likely to be acceptable to any British government.

The odds are, therefore, that British ministers will turn their eyes to an idea now being considered in Paris and Bonn: *équement des soldes* — the "smoothing out" of the balances. Under this scheme, a ceiling would be set to the amount by which any country could profit or lose from the EEC budget. Thus, in practice, each country would contribute roughly as much as it got out of the budget.

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Stephen Milligan
The author is European editor of The Economist.

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Eighty-two years after the first edition, the great dictionary's fourth appears

Words that maketh the family Chambers

Edinburgh has two streets named after the union of Scotland and England — the thistle and the rose. There's a building in Thistle Street where, between the mounted calligraphy of Sir Walter Scott and the first dictionary definition of "zero option", you can find more than 160 years of publishing history.

The methods and the memorabilia of the house of Chambers — and the present generation of a modest dynasty — are still rooted in the heart of the capital, survivors of that golden age of Edinburgh publishing which nurtured figures like William Creech, Archibald Constable, William Blackwood and the brothers William and Robert Chambers.

W. and R. Chambers' brothers' most celebrated product, *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary*, goes into its fourth edition today. Dictionaries gestate and mutate slowly, although the postwar years and the hectic evolution of postwar language have accelerated the process. The first edition appeared in 1901 and the next two in 1952 and 1972, with a supplement in 1977. But Chambers's interest in lexicography dates back to 1866, when they published a small etymological dictionary.

They also produced an "English dictionary" in 1898 which George Bernard Shaw used with enthusiasm. "PS", he writes in a letter to the firm, "My Chambers's dictionary (my favourite of half a dozen) is dated 1898. In there a later edition — unspotted?" The question suggests



Tony Chambers, great-great-grandson of one of the founding brothers, and on his left, Betty Kirkpatrick, the dictionary's editor, with some of their staff.

joined by William, the two of them

stepped on the floor of the shop with piles of books for pillows.

An early history of the company has a hint of Thatcherian rhetoric in its description of the brothers' rise from rags to riches: "It has often happened in Scotland that poor boys have become famous men, and it will often happen again, but when one considers these boys — William became an LLD of Edinburgh University, Robert of St Andrews; Robert was Master of the Merchant Company of Edinburgh; William was twice Lord Provost, and after twice refusing a knighthood was later persuaded to accept a baronetcy, the conferring of which was unfortunately prevented by his untimely death, untimely in that it happened just before the reopening of St Giles' Cathedral, which he had so magnificently restored — when one considers the early privations and the ultimate triumph of sterling worth and character, the story of William and Robert seems more like a fairytale than most stories of the kind."

Today Tony Chambers, the great-grandson of Robert (who was himself a writer of distinction and friend of Lamb, Carlyle, de Quincey, Scott and Browning) lives in the affluent Edinburgh suburb of Barnton and, at 63, is an expert and active skier. He is also enough of a businessman to recognize that fairy tales don't have much of a market during recessions, and he has "ratiosized and consolidated just in time".

The Chambers operation has been trimmed of general fiction and children's books and the company, which does its own warehousing and distribution, now employs about 30 people. There are six editorial staff, all focused on the reference books. Chambers's energetic dictionary editor, Betty Kirkpatrick, also "does educational books when I can find the time".

In the rented, one-room shop, Robert lived mainly on tea. "For three or four years of that time," he wrote, "I never got a regular dinner except on Sundays." When he was

strong on linguistics and phonetics. John Simpson lays claim to sport and jazz. Catherine Schwartzenbach is a minister, knows a lot about religion.

Betty Kirkpatrick, married to a doctor, had ready access to the language of medicine, but her own strength is an eclectic and encyclopedic mind: "You have to turn yourself into a kind of sponge". She has, however, given up doing crosswords and is beginning to feel oppressed by Scrabble. Chambers is the reference dictionary for the National Scrabble Championship and National Scrabble Club Tournament, which she judges. Her knowledge of her own dictionary, she says, is poor thing beside the awesome memories of Scrabble players.

"Some of them can actually tell you which page lists a certain word. They read buts of the dictionary every night, although not necessarily for the meanings. Their object is to know the word, not the definition."

Chambers is as proud of its idiosyncrasies as it is of its statistics. It contains more language references and more definitions than any other single-volume dictionary, including its main competitor, the *Concise Oxford*, and the new edition, of course, makes it more up to date. "Ra-ra skirt, multilateralist, total allergy syndrome, kidology" and "yomp" are among their exclusive entries.

Dictionary watchers are particularly attached to Chambers's "humorous definitions" and how, with protest in the letters' columns of newspapers, any of their favourites disappear. By public demand "éclair" ("long in shape but short in duration"), "perpette", "pic" and "picture-store" (look them up) have been restored for 1983, and "man-eater" has been added: "A woman given to chasing, catching and devouring men."

Julie Davidson

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Ronald Butt

Labour's great unmentionable

The unions' attack on the last Labour government was the principal cause of Mr James Callaghan's downfall. But Labour still needs some sort of policy because it rejects the anti-inflationary discipline that enables Mrs Thatcher to do without one. Labour says that Mrs Thatcher has a pay policy in the shape of a hugger-mugger in a crisis, he said. Labour had to avoid that: "We shall have to carry out this assessment within weeks of winning the next election... (and) have that agreement in place when next year's pay round begins at the end of August... We cannot afford to leave the issue for 12 months..."

Mr Healey preferred to speak of the "assessment" rather than of the now almost indecent "incomes policy" but what he meant was clear. Labour desperately needs to devise some means of controlling pay by agreement quickly. But by admitting this, he has created even more questions than existed before.

How can an elaborate process intended to cover so much more than pay (indeed, every aspect of economic activity) and designed to take from nine to 12 months, be completed in only two? If it is only the pay element that is to be completed in two months with or without decisions on prices, investments and social benefits — but without a full assessment of the economy, what is the difference between this and the old prices and incomes policy?

How would the NEA's allocation of resources between profits, pay, investments and benefits be enforced on the unions (whether in two or nine months) if they did not agree to the Government's wishes and pressed for higher wages to renew inflation?

Last week, Mr Clive Jenkins reassured his ASTMS union conference against fears of a backdoor incomes policy. The NEA, he said, meant "no statutes, no norms, no curbs."

I can see that it could mean no statutes. It might mean no specific norms overall. But I cannot see how it means no curbs since an order of priorities must mean curbs for some so as to allow rises for others.

Mr Healey and Mr Shore know that their inflationary policies require the agreed control of incomes if they are to stand a chance of avoiding high interest rates, a new appeal to the IMF or a totally controlled socialist state. They do not know how to get it.

The left does not want an incomes policy. It does not mind if the government inflates until the social bubble bursts, for it hopes that out of the ensuing upheaval, the fully socialist state will be born when everything including everyone's pay will be controlled from the centre.

If the democratic socialist like Mr Healey knew how to get an incomes policy to avoid this, they would say so in plain language. Their language is obscure because they do not know. They can offer only what was regurgitated last time. In this as in so much there are two Labour Parties and two Labour policies. The voter must decide for himself which (if either) he wants and which he thinks he would get if Labour were given power. Mr Healey cannot tell him.

Ross Davies

In praise of the sweet, lovable cockroach

In a world which seems to have served notice to quit upon nearly every animal from the arid arid to the zorbi, inclusive, it should be more heartening that it somehow is that *dictyoptera* scuttle about this country as never before. And yet, despite the great variety, adaptiveness and industry of the breed, still the situation is not so dire.

Ru, climb, fly though they may, it has to be said of the Brown-Banded or the Smoky-Brown (to name but two of the six species) that, as wildlife goes, cockroaches lack oomph. They have now even been banned from Brooks's Club.

The cockroach is a single-minded creature, but to no avail. Still no time is offered to it by Anglia TV or the BBC Natural History Unit. Yet, having shuddered through a radio programme about the loving kindness of the wolf and gagged through a television account of how puff adders are good for me, I say it is not a good excuse for the neglect of cockroaches on the ground that they're bad for you.

Let me make it quite clear that I have no money riding on cockroaches. I have yet to clasp eyes on a cockroach, alive or dead. But I have a friend who has seen lots. I am moved to these reflections on the ignominy of the cockroach solely because I have just put down an extremely putdownable booklet on this and other conservation also.

The booklet is *An A-Z of Household Pests*, at 60p, something of a bargain. On the one hand, not since the days of books like *Along the Limpopo With a Ferret* has there been much in the way of reading matter about creatures one may — or should — kill. On the other, the booklet is just the right size for swatting smaller game, although personally I would hesitate to take on a cockroach with it. My friend who has seen lots, an old Africa hand, favours a swift flip-flop. Not much use with puff adders, though.

The A-Z is published by the British Pest Control Association which, like any white hunter, treats its quarry with respect. Control of cockroaches, the booklet says, "is seldom easy".

Now the cockroach is never going to dethrone the Smurf or the Womble in the nation's affections, but it would help if this versatile insect were to make that one impossible leap and live *al fresco*. Even the puff adder and the wolf manage to be both wholesome and loathsome, because at least they know their place.



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ULTIMATE THINGS

It is a good moment, at the start of a general election campaign to be reminded by Alexander Solzhenitsyn - speaking more over in London - what happens to a society when men have forgotten God. Though he was speaking about the evils of the Soviet system, he had harsh words to say about the decline of the West. He has noticed its unawareness of spiritual values, and its empty pews. He is astonished at the bias of the World Council of Churches who promote revolutionary movements in the Third World while remaining blind and deaf to the persecution of religion which is carried out relentlessly in the Soviet Union. For Dr Billy Graham, his predecessor in receipt of the Templeton Prize, who went to Moscow and said that he had noticed no persecution of religion, he merely asked for God to be the judge.

Fashionable opinion might be tempted to dismiss Solzhenitsyn as an embittered exile whose religious enthusiasm, born under Soviet oppression, is inappropriate for the liberal societies in the West. Fashionable opinion, as so often, would be wrong. True, he sees his important work as being the need to speak to those he left behind in mother Russia. True, he may have found it difficult to adjust to the wants-and-all aspects of a free society where self-indulgence, without corresponding sense of responsibility, often threatens to become mere licence. But these are minor qualifications when compared to the core of his message about the importance of an awareness of

the spirit of man, and the danger of ignoring it.

Solzhenitsyn has lived in a society whose authorities are inspired solely by the materialist ideal. The Soviet system is based on the explicit denial of the rights of an individual, which is so grounded in the tradition of Judeo-Christian ethics. Where the state is sovereign, there can be no place for any other religion. There is no rational method to counter this kind of ideology. It can be challenged and contained by a corresponding act of faith, but only faith. To reason with such Marxist implausibility is to concede to it.

What worries Solzhenitsyn is the lack of evidence that the West possesses this kind of faith. He starts with the organized churches. No wonder he is disappointed. Denominational religion has come to place so much emphasis on the idea of community - over against that of the individual within the community - that there is often little to choose between the ethics of collective theology and that of collective materialism. Perhaps this emphasis on the communal ideal springs from a basic sense of weakness in the churches, who hope it will make up for a lack of cohesion based simply on an assertion of faith.

But there is no substitute for faith, and faith can never be a collective endowment. The inner life of an individual is not determined by social factors, otherwise he would merely be a foot soldier in a statistician's army. The trouble with the West, which Solzhenitsyn rightly per-

ceives, is that politicians, though not dedicated to the elimination of religion like the Soviet authorities are, nevertheless seem to be totally taken up with material and rational criteria in their evaluation of the conditions of society. The churches keep pace with them in order to appear "relevant", so that they too harness their energies to social and material factors. In so doing, the churches connive at a denial of the spirit, for religion means dependence on the irrational fact of an individual and intensively personal experience, rather than one condition by outward circumstances.

It is faith, not reason, which

gives an individual the independent standpoint from which to evaluate the external conditions of his life, however adverse they may be. It is faith, not reason, which lays the foundation of freedom and autonomy. Man, as a social being, obviously cannot exist without belonging to some community, but he will not find the ultimate justification for his existence in that community.

The coming election campaign

will be full of claim and counter

claim about the cost of living, jobs, wages, weapons, houses.

Here is the whole cornucopia of

a society encouraged by its

leaders to think solely in terms of

the good things in life, all of

which can be calibrated and then

bid for in the auction room of

politics. There are good things in

life. There are bad things too.

But it is the ultimate things

which must not be forgotten.

STAYING ON TARGET

Government departments went on a small spending spree at the end of the last financial year. Central government borrowing was £2,750m in March, much higher than expected and a turnaround of more than £3,000m compared with the surplus in March, 1982. This had the usual effect on money supply growth. In April sterling M3 - the broad measure of money which continues to attract most comment - went up by almost 2 per cent, a rate of growth which, if continued in future months, would cause a large overshoot on official targets. There is increasing suspicion and concern that the government is allowing financial control to slip ahead of the general election.

The anxiety should not be overdone. The burst of spending in March was intended to offset previous underspending. In the 1982-83 financial year as a whole the public sector borrowing requirement was £9,200m compared to an original estimate of £9,500m, while money supply growth of about 12 per cent was broadly consistent with the target of 8 to 12 per cent. Indeed, the final numbers confirm the feasibility of financial targets and tend to vindicate this approach to economic management.

There were, in any case, plausible arguments for a little carelessness with financial control at the end of 1982-83. Last autumn unemployment was rising quickly because of the intensification of the world recession, while the targets for both the budget deficit and the money supply were being met comfortably. The targets give the government some room for manoeuvre. It was understandable that a minor relaxation

should be engineered to promote domestic demand and ease the unemployment problem.

The episode demonstrates that the specification of targets does not reduce monetary policy to an exercise for computers and robots. There is still scope for political judgment and administrative discretion. The question now is whether the Government should have a strict or casual attitude towards the targets for the current financial year. These targets are for a public sector borrowing requirement of £8,500m and money supply growth of between 7 and 11 per cent.

The case for strict adherence to the guidelines is that, if they are missed, confidence in the Government's anti-inflation stand would be undermined. The loss of credibility might by itself complicate the task of inflation control because of the effect on foreign sentiment and so on the exchange rate. Moreover, the interest rate reductions already in place have contributed to a quite strong recovery in the economy. Signs of an upturn are still multiplying, with the March retail sales and housebuilding figures being the latest evidence.

But the recovery has not yet been sufficient to stem the rise in unemployment. There was an underlying increase of 22,000 in April, not significantly different from the typical monthly change in 1982. A further cut in interest rates seems to be justified to prevent the situation deteriorating further. With the building societies reporting longer mortgage queues because of a shortage of funds, there should be no doubt about the effectiveness of an interest rate cut as a stimulant to business activity. The societies' inflows of money

would strengthen, they would have no difficulty in lending it out and extra impetus would be given to housebuilding and certain types of consumption.

This method of assisting the recovery would not endanger the target for public sector borrowing in 1983-84 since, unlike the widely-canvassed proposal for fiscal reflation, there would be no effect on public expenditure. It might lead to an increase in the private sector's demand for bank credit and eventually this would cause an acceleration of money supply growth, but for the time being bank lending to the private sector is weak.

The position is finely balanced. But the case for a small reduction in interest rates seems more persuasive than the case for a small increase or no change. The bad April money supply figures reflect a once-for-all and clearly identifiable special influence, while the most recent rise in the unemployment total indicates the continuation of a genuine and deeply worrying trend. The Government might nevertheless be unwise to sanction a fall in clearing bank base rates before the election because the charge of financial gerrymandering would inevitably - and damagingly - be levelled against it.

It should be pointed out that the latest economic developments, with a simultaneous strengthening in business activity and decline in inflation, validate the Government's emphasis on financial targets. The Labour Party and the Alliance seem to have much less faith in them. It would be a tragedy if these methods of control were to be abandoned after the election, just as they are beginning to work and to be respected because they work.

It is right to take care over the framing and presentation of the question. Above all, it must be made clear that the question is about race as distinct from immigration. But in fact much of the committee's anxiety seems misconceived. The controversy which led to the omission of a question in 1981 turned largely on a test census done in Haringey, which was used by some pressure groups as an opportunity to play on minority fears. But in spite of all the campaigning the result did not show that such a question was widely unacceptable to racial minorities. Whether race relations improve or deteriorate in the next few years it is probable (and desirable) that minority communities will become more ready and more able to put census information to good use. Knowledge is power, and it is in their clear interest to secure and use it.

But how many members of those minorities do grant that the state is well-intentioned towards them? How many are quite sure that it will remain so, when it is responsive to a public opinion that often seems hostile? It would be better to drop the question than to risk significant distortion of the invaluable overall survey. The report stresses the importance of framing and presentation of the question. Above all, it must be made clear that the question is about race as distinct from immigration. But in fact much of the committee's anxiety seems misconceived. The controversy which led to the omission of a question in 1981 turned largely on a test census done in Haringey, which was used by some pressure groups as an opportunity to play on minority fears. But in spite of all the campaigning the result did not show that such a question was widely unacceptable to racial minorities. Whether race relations improve or deteriorate in the next few years it is probable (and desirable) that minority communities will become more ready and more able to put census information to good use. Knowledge is power, and it is in their clear interest to secure and use it.

Raising their eyes beyond June 9 for one last time, the about-to-be-scattered MPs of the Commons home affairs committee have bequeathed to the nation a report about a problem which will probably not arise before 1991. There may not be many votes in the next decade next month, but it is a sensible and persuasive report. Indeed, almost all significant public voices in the field have been persuaded already - persuaded that the national census ought in future to contain the question about ethnic origins timidly left off in 1981. The only doubt seems to be whether the thousands of heads of households who will actually fill in the census forms can also be persuaded: and that is the thing that matters. If they refused or lied in large numbers, then the whole census might be impaired.

The more complex a society is, the more it needs reliable information about its own condition to allow sensible policy decisions to be made (and, in passing, the stronger the case becomes to keep the data up-to-date with mid-term censuses like the one proposed for 1986 and now under threat). Granted that the state is well-intentioned,

promise to destroy the individual forms which carry names and addresses, once the generalized data has been fed into the computer. These forms, held for a century in a confidentially which has never yet been betrayed, eventually become precious material for the historian.

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Today's Office

Office managements are now recognising that electronic technology is the key to improved performance. Allied to this is better designed furniture and lighting.

Derek Harris reports

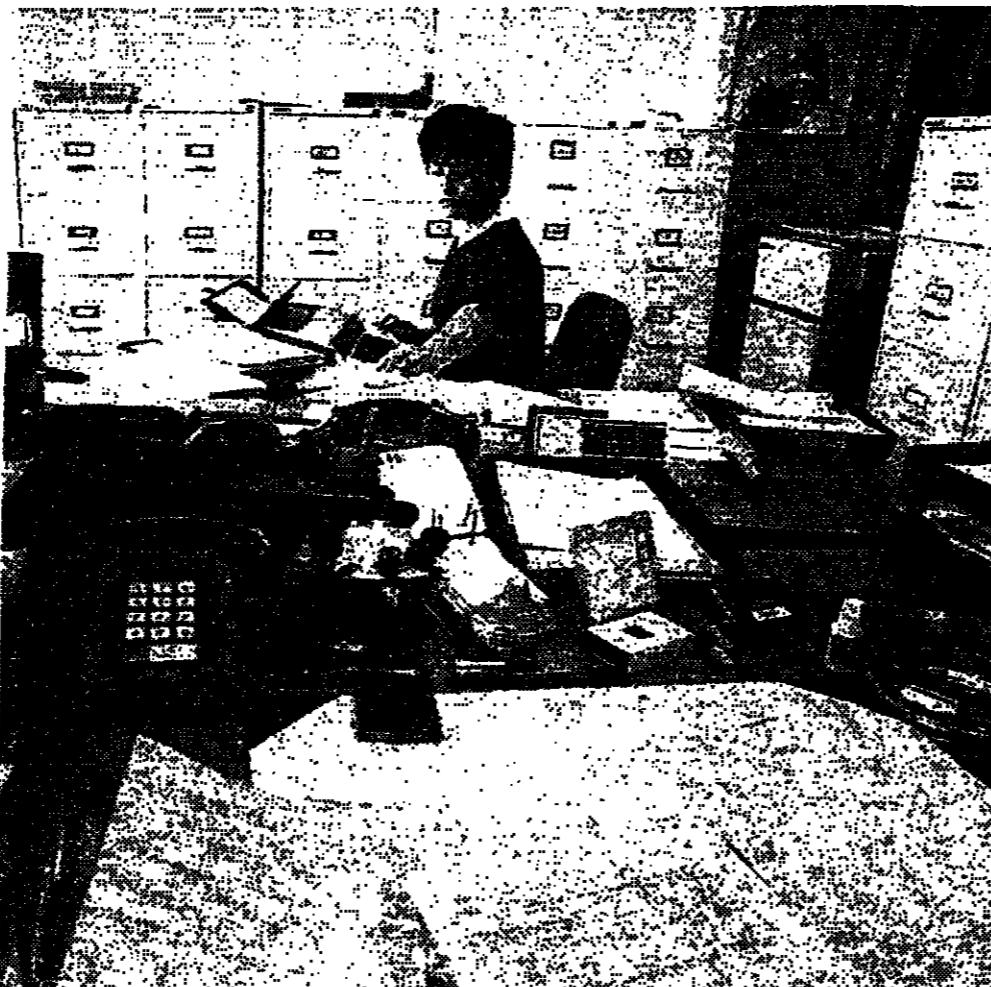
The concept of the paperless office, relying on a combination of computers, microelectronics and telecommunications, has created a good deal of euphoria in its time. Many companies have jumped on the electronic bandwagon - there are well over a hundred selling word processors alone in Britain - and their forceful salesmanship no doubt made its contribution.

That phase is largely over; it is accepted that the electronic revolution will not occur overnight. Nor will there be a sudden move towards the really sophisticated systems furniture which takes account of future needs like those of the electronic office, although refinement of existing furniture systems has made big strides in improving work conditions.

Many offices, however, still boast no more than some electric typewriters, a few photocopiers and perhaps a television set capable of calling up the Prestel viewdata service.

Investments of up to £20,000 in capital equipment per worker are common in manufacturing industry while in offices still going their old-fashioned way investment per head can be little more than £1,000 in equipment.

In a recession, when survival is all, it has not been easy to take a longer view. But just as manufacturers are increasingly realising that automation can increase their chances of success, office managements are recognising that advanced information and voice processing are the key to improved performance.



From typewriter to microcomputer: right, Phil Juddins, personnel manager of Rank Xerox, using an executive work station.

World-wide sales of advanced office equipment last year have been put at £3,000m. This year a United Kingdom market worth £48m is the expectation of Butler, Cox and Partners, a leading UK office automation consultancy. This estimate was made after a £250,000 survey commissioned by the Department of Industry with five leading electronics companies (the survey is *The Market for Office Technology*; Butler Cox on 01 583-9381).

By 1987 the UK market could be worth £320m, Butler Cox believes. Between now and then the British market is expected to generate £800m in sales out of a West European total of £2,900m.

The survey, carried out over 18 months and produced at the turn of the year, is cautious in its projections. It discounts the likelihood of a white-hot revolution over the next few years.

"Technologies, products, applications and supplier strategies will evolve. Customers will learn how to apply office technology slowly and often, painfully."

Nevertheless, by 1987 the UK market for advanced office systems could represent 15 per cent of the vast market for information technology, from data processing systems to telecommunications.

The study says the scope for growth in use of information technology is vast. World market forecasts of an increase in sales volume of 15 per cent a year are now being made. Orbit points out: "This could mean an increase of nearly half in real terms over five years.

Some products, such as word processors, are increasing sales by value at twice that rate, all the more impressive because prices have been falling during the difficult period of the recession.

EOSYS, office systems consultants, who are joint publishers of the Orbit study, surveyed 20 companies and found that most were expecting to increase their expenditure on office automation. The biggest increase was expected in desktop systems like word processors and microprocessors.

Some 70 per cent of those surveyed expected to spend more on items like these.

Orbit says: "One of the most obvious manifestations in the normal working areas of offices will be more workstations. These will be similar to today's microcomputers, word processors and visual display units, but with increasing sophistication, wider ranging capabilities, more customization to meet the needs of different users and a greater emphasis in managerial and professional workstations.

This will bring a rapid increase in the requirement to link workstations so that they can be used for electronic mail and to access databases.

Multi-task workstations are expected for one in six office workers within five to 10 years with one workstation for every three office workers in 10 to 15 years. Some sectors will embrace the new technology more quickly than others. Orbit suggests, in the finance sector one workstation is expected for every six employees within five years. Some companies already have more.

Nevertheless, the study accepts that paper will be around for many years yet. Electronic filing is expected to account for less than half of stored documents for the next 15 years.

Similar conservative predictions are made about voice and text storage, store and forward message systems and about the transmission of document by digital means.



There are still some constraints to the rate of introduction of new technology into the office. Orbit concludes: "Despite progressively cheaper systems, the cost and lack of standardization are still real barriers."

More and more multinational companies have nevertheless been moving into office automation: IBM and Apple, two of the best known names in computers, recently launched new microcomputers as the cornerstones of their electronic office systems. Wang is already deeply involved in the office market. So is Rank Xerox UK.

There are already 180,000 personal computers in use in British business establishments, according to the National Business Equipment Survey (NBES). The market could increase by a half this year. NBES suggests.

Faximile transmission is another big growth area, according to Mr Gautam Barua, director of NBES. Kalle Infotech, part of Hoechst, and ITT have been making much of the running recently but other contenders include Rank Xerox and, among the Japanese, National Panasonic and Canon.

A bewildering array of companies are vying for parts of the office automation business. It is blurring the old boundaries between computers, telecommunications and general electronics.

NBES. Among the Japanese makers Canon had 9 per cent market share and U-Bix 9 per cent with Minolta at 7 per cent.

The revolution rolls on, but there are obvious hurdles. Office buildings are ill-equipped to take the wiring complexity, extra weight and additional heat of the new machines.

Office staff and managers also have personally to adapt to the new equipment. That has raised many questions from fatigue and health to the ergonomic design of equipment and the provision of adequate lighting.

But the Orbit study does make this point: "Although there are some exceptions, most studies of staff reaction to working with new equipment show a high level of satisfaction and a growing sense of confidence and job involvement."

*The Orbit Study: *Information Technology and Office Design*; £200 from DEGW, 8-9 Bulstrode Place, Marylebone Lane, London W1M 5FW.

The big change facing most clerical workers

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Mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow.

And office automation systems from humble beginnings can start.

You may just be installing word processing or electronic mail today.

But you could also be taking the first step towards office automation.

Which means no more than equipping your staff to deal efficiently with the ever-increasing flow of "paperwork". And keeping your competitive edge.

Whatever your business, your company runs on information. How effectively it will run tomorrow depends on the way you introduce information technology to your office today.

We, at Digital, have grown to be one of the world's major suppliers of information management systems by learning what companies want.

And what they don't want.

We don't, for instance, expect you to automate overnight or change office routines because the computer can't adapt.

That's why we've based our approach to office automation on designing systems that can be easily integrated today and in the future.

It means protecting your investment by keeping your options open.

In fact, we design products to work with other vendors' equipment as well. (So don't despair if that original word processor isn't Digital.)

Office automation is a question of experience. You'll find our experience in use in offices around the world.

And our own internal office automation systems include a worldwide electronic mail network of 15,000 users.

If you'd like to take a leaf out of our book, phone Linda Taylor at Reading (0734) 387717 for further information.

And keep your options open.

Doing more. The Digital difference.

Have you started an office automation system or merely bought a word processor?



digital

WORD PROCESSORS

Loving the machine more than the boss

Technology often has the frustrating tendency to lead, rather than follow the market, and this was endorsed in a recent survey produced by the UK Information and Word Processing Association (IWP).

The main conclusions from the survey indicated that 1983 will be another year of high sales growth for word processors and office computers. However the equipment users are still faced with a host of problems which make selection and implementation difficult. The IWP survey highlighted in particular:

- the difficulty in justifying the cost of buying systems
- the widening choice of hardware further complicated by the overlapping capabilities of microcomputers and dedicated word processors
- the need for more advanced communications facilities

The respondents were drawn from 700 word processor users, and 88 per cent said they were planning to acquire more word processing equipment this year. The overriding criterion for selection was reliability, and price was of secondary importance behind such factors as ease of learning, and the vendor's ability to provide future integrated office systems.

Secretaries were seen as almost unanimous in welcoming the introduction of the word processor (wp) and there was a

trend in training wp operators more through in-house instruction and self-taught packages, with little emphasis on suppliers' training courses.

The IWP has often criticized the after-sales service in such areas as training by the manufacturers and, according to Horace Mitchell, their national programmes officer, there is a distinct and definite shift towards the supplier "unbundling" training and customer support, and charging for it, if offering it at all". The IWP does not enjoy witnessing this trend, but appreciate this has created an opportunity for other businesses to supplement this manufacturers' neglect.

Secretaries will have access to better information through IT, and using their ideas and information is every bit as important as word processor selection. Gale Chitton, a secretary with Truman Ltd, the brewing part of Grand Met, endorsed this by saying that executives could be much more productive if "they listened to the ideas and information flowing to them through their secretaries. Of course a word processor would make me more productive, especially with regular routine work, or major reports, but executives need to utilise the secretarial functions better, whether there is a word processor or not".

The need for executives to appreciate the scope and potential of word processors, was emphasized by Aubrey Wilson, the marketing authority, when his secretary Jan, got her Adler word processor.

"She insisted that I sit down with her and understand with her just what this machine could, and could not, do to help me" says Wilson who admits to having been reticent about the introduction of IT into his offices. He was completely convinced within a day, as "the effect on improved productivity was instant", says Wilson. "She loves her machine, more than

her boss unfortunately, but it was the way it was introduced that was just as vital as the choice of equipment".

Unions do not like to be bombarded with change and new technology and Leslie Robert, the Nalgo official who is chairman of Brent Council's joint negotiating committee, considers there is much more scope for managers, users and trade union representatives to sit down and discuss the opportunities of new technology before it is bought.

He says: "We have had

situations in Brent where equipment has arrived and been introduced without consultation and users' job roles and tasks have been changed without consent. This is the wrong way to introduce office automation - agreements must be reached first."

The traditional division of labour between executive and secretary is close to collapse, according to John Pardoe, the former Liberal MP who is now MD of Sight and Sound, the office training organization. Sight and Sound is the largest keyboard training organization in the world, with 11 colleges in the UK, and is about to become one of the largest managing agents under the Government's new youth training scheme. He says there is an urgent need for executives to overcome the prejudice of class and gender that invariably assigns keyboard functions to female secretaries, but even the IWP survey found that over 50 per cent of their respondents "foresee difficulties for managers using work stations".

Sight and Sound gives programmed tuition in keyboarding and appreciation to operators of computer application, an essential training at a time when word processors are becoming increasingly more advanced.

In 1979, Olympia International launched the world's first standard electronic typewriter, and now four years later has seen the innovation of screen extensions to that typewriter. These offer the facilities of a dedicated word processor at a fraction of the price and mean that hitherto "dead end" standard typewriters are now readily upgradeable.

The ETX-1 is promoted as a low cost alternative to multi-

station word processing systems and, if purchased with the standard electronic typewriter, can mean a complete screen-based text-processing system for less than £1,800.

WORDNET has also produced its 2,000, the missing link which can connect up to eight different typewriters, golfball or electronic with any make of word processor. Costing less than £24 per typewriter input station per week, it brings the technology within reach of many smaller organizations which, according to the IWP survey had previously found it difficult to justify the cost of wp equipment.

New electronic interfaces are now being launched like Olivetti's OCTET KSR/MSR which can be used as an adjunct to its standard ET 121 electronic typewriter. This enables the typewriter to be used as a letter-quality printer for a micro, and adds a further 4,000 characters to the ET's one line memory. It also enables the typewriter to "communicate" with a third party such as another Olivetti machine, telex tape, or word processor.

Many offices still only have dictating machines, but this is changing as the manufacturers, like Philips and Dictaphone, extend their interests into word processors and other areas of office automation. Dictaphone's centralized dictation systems are today no longer the desk-top machines with hunting devices of 10 years ago, but are purpose designed systems capable of getting words direct from the author's desk to the typist, and back as quickly as possible.

But the complexity of equipment on the market, usually in digital disguise, confuses the users. With a tendency to concentrate on selling rather than service, complacency breeds contempt in its potential users.

"User friendliness" may be the topical theme for the manufacturers, but as the IWP survey has endorsed, too many users only see this "friendliness" up to the buying stage, and very little thereafter. If only they appreciated how important the secretary was to an organization's office automation strategy then manufacturers might extend their "friendliness" long after they have sold their product.

Details available from Quadrat, telephone 01-242 8697

Lynda King Taylor

INFORMATION

Why executives feel the pinch

The average office worker is interrupted every 17 minutes. True office automation, says Dr Rich Schneider, manager of market planning and development for Data General, has to consider this problem at all levels of office work.

Typing represents only one per cent of an office's budget, according to Schneider, five per cent on the professional, managerial and executive level. A company which is considering word and data processing in isolation from the activities of the office as a whole, is Dr Schneider says, "ignoring cost effectiveness and also ignoring executive communications resource they should be."

Information is a corporate resource, and as such, office automation has to deal with the managing of information from a total corporate perspective.

According to a recent survey by the Information and Word Processing Association (IWP), few companies have an office automation strategy and few executives want to operate VDUs or work stations.

A recent experiment, by a UK subsidiary of IBM involving groups of managers and secretaries, tested how executives and other professionals accept the "paperless office". It confirmed that in most cases, the transition from pen or pencil to fully integrated work station by executives was seldom beyond the experimental stage.

This experiment, and a survey by Booz Allen and Hamilton, showed that executives, in the main, are remarkably unwilling to use new forms of office equipment personally, such as dictating machines, which can produce dramatic gains in productivity, has not penetrated the upper echelons to any great extent.

Executives, it seems, appear to be poor estimators of how they actually spend their time. Booz Allen consultants found wide discrepancies between executives' estimates of how long they expected to spend on a variety of activities and the time actually taken.

Executives expressed apprehension about their abilities to use information technology (IT) systems. This is obviously something manufacturers must worry about if their dream of having a VDU on every executive's desk by the end of the decade is to become reality.

Alan Benjamin, the chairman of IT Year 82 and director of communication of CAP Group, feels that for executives to accept office automation, "there will need to be a major development by the suppliers to make systems for managers much more friendly, and flexible, than they are now. This means that information will have to be accessible in the form which the manager recognises."

In human terms, today's computer is a spoon-fed idiot, but how many manufacturers?

blurb actually illustrate this? Sales literature expounds the powerful ability of the computer to calculate, with a faultless memory and even a communication prowess. It fails to emphasise that the computer cannot think, reason, interpret, or make decisions.

David Burt, deputy managing director of Hellermann Deutsch, the electrical connector manufacturers, says that if manufacturers made IT more "personal", more executives would be willing to accept change. All too often, say Burt and Benjamin, executives are made to feel that their jobs are being eroded by the introduction of elusive thinking machines - and that the computer is capable of putting a hundred years' thought into every management decision, which is simply not true.

The key to increased productivity and a sound future is by using new technology and, according to Pactel (the computer and telecommunications arm of P & International Management Consultants), by "managed innovation". Stuart Excel of Pactel says that tight financial control does not necessarily entail a sound economy, and that "by necessity, companies have to study the impact of technological change on their corporate strategy... the lesson is that organisations can no longer leave technology to the R & D boys. Directors must study and understand the impact of technological change on their corporate strategy, and indeed play a part in defining an overall technical strategy".

But according to executives like Benjamin and Burt, manufacturers make it very difficult for them to answer such questions as:

- What technologies should I invest in to remain competitive tomorrow?
- Who will be my future competitors?
- Where will my competitive markets be in the future?

• What sort of executives should I be recruiting for this organisation in five years time?

Willie Jamieson, senior manager of Arthur Andersen's Consultancy Division says the key challenge to executives is the role of middle managers in the future. How is middle management to be used when, acquired by senior executives themselves through office automation, this level of management could effectively be dispensed with and the work disappear. Jamieson says that if secretaries and support staff have better access to information, then their job roles will be "upgraded" squeezing the middle managers above.

It is imperative, therefore, according to Jamieson, that corporate IT strategies look toward the future recruitment and planning policies.

This is particularly important with middle managers, for continued on page 19



Hugh Channon, administration manager of the Arthur Andersen company, where office automation has rapidly changed from being just a sales story for word processing to become a major investment area for the company.



Are you trying to manage without telex?

By using telex more often, you could solve all sorts of managerial headaches.

Like transmitting complex information to overseas destinations in minutes instead of days.

Like knowing you're at the centre of the largest direct telex network in the world, a network reaching 180 countries automatically.

Like making sure your message is never held up by world time differences. (When phoning someone means waking someone, you can always telex. And know the message will be waiting for him at the start of the working day.)

Soon, it won't even be necessary for your operator to keep trying a number that's engaged.

Through our new Plus Telex* facilities, she'll simply send the message to our computer which will then transmit it when the lines are free. To any number of addresses up to 1090.

And when it comes to updating your equipment, you'll find many modern teleprinters really are designed to be seen but not heard (well hardly heard, anyway).

Even with all these developments, however, the actual cost of using the telex has been reduced.

Contact Roger Evans and he'll explain what it means to you.

You can reach him by phoning 01-936 2756. Or, of course, by sending a telex to 21601 BTIG. The International Division of British Telecom



* Telex Plus is a Trade Mark of British Telecommunications.

OFFICE FURNITURE

Design for more work and a lot less waste

The office furniture market, now worth at least £100m a year in sales, has been shrugging off the effects of recession in a way the rest of the furniture industry has envied. Furniture sales overall have been depressed for two years, with improvement coming in only at the end of last year. The office furniture market, however, grew last year by 8 per cent.

But a far bigger growth than this has come in that part of the office furniture market which represents the leading edge of designs and techniques. This is the systems sector which produces furniture in a more complex way to accommodate the demands not only of the electronic office but a working environment calculated to improve productivity while adding to individual comfort and convenience.

The best systems also look far enough ahead to allow scope for the inevitable changes which will come in an electronic and other systems proliferate in offices over the rest of this decade.

The systems market, in which there are now more than a score of manufacturers in Britain with some of them offshoots of the overseas giants, last year grew at twice the rate of the office furniture market overall, according to National Business Equipment Survey (NBES). NBES puts the sector's annual sales value at about £50m although some manufacturers put the value as high as £70m compared with possibly £130m for the office furniture market overall.

According to a recent survey, copier machines are fast overtaking the work of duplicators in American offices. The study made by Predicts Inc, a business information company based at Cleveland, Ohio, shows that the most rapid growth is in plain paper copiers replacing coated paper electrostatic machines as well as offset duplicators.

The same message comes from the UK market, with copiers becoming more compact, cheaper and more capable than ever before and, as a result, more popular, writes Lynda King Taylor.

Technology has improved copy quality and reliability and has allowed for the inclusion of intricate and specialized features on even low volume equipment.

In a *Times* survey for this report, copy quality was regarded as the most important requirement by firms considering buying a copier, whether a simple desk top model or a high

systems sales have eased in the past few months but NBES believes that this year will see up to an 18 per cent increase, with the overall office furniture market up between 12 and 13 per cent.

Entirely British companies account for about a third of the turnover in the systems market.

Among them are Romeo Vickers

and Lucas Furniture Systems,

both among the top five

producers of systems furniture.

Other entrants include Projects

Office Furniture, part of the

Bullock Group and Britain's

largest manufacturer of wooden

office furniture, G. A.

Harvey of Margate which has

been attracting trade attention

with its latest range of systems

furniture.

But the market leader is

Herman Miller, a United States

base company but now with a

substantial production presence

in Britain, with two factories in

Bath. Miller claims a 30 per

cent market share in panel-

based systems. Treading close

to Miller in market share are

offshoots of two other United

States companies: Steelcase and

Westinghouse Electric.

Steelcase is the world's largest

producer of office furniture and

its European subsidiary is

Steelcase Stratford, including a

strong French interest with

production facilities in France.

Westinghouse has production

facilities in the Irish Republic.

It is the systems makers

which especially have addressed

themselves to the problem of

the unproductive office. There

have been estimates that typists

and secretaries spend only 15

per cent of their time actually typing letters and documents, with general administration accounting for 25 per cent of time, being away from the desk another 20 per cent, telephoning 10 per cent and probably another 10 per cent doing not very much. Chasing up records and files can also eat up much time.

The file of systems furniture has changed dramatically from the time when the office

furniture industry simply pro-

vided people with desks, chairs and cupboards, according to Mr Neville Osrin, Steelcase's marketing manager in the United Kingdom.

He said: "One factor has been the trend towards office automation with the electronic office as the ultimate development. But there is also a growing awareness that the environmental supports within an office, including the furni-

ture, do play a part in improving productivity."

He added: "Productive work-

time is the key. We are finding

that by using furniture which is

responsive to change the

amount of money required to

increase productivity at an accept-

able level is very much less."

Most offices were still grossly

ill-equipped to adapt to the new

technologies coming in.

The aim of all systems

furniture is to cope with the

ducting of electrical wiring for new electric equipment, often providing lighting suitable for work at visual display units, together with layouts and ergonomic seating which increase efficiency and reduce fatigue.

As much as two hours work-

time a day can be lost through

distractions, according to Mr

Osrin. In open-plan offices

there was need to tackle

problems like lack of privacy,

lack of opportunity to concen-

trate and poor acoustical con-

trol.

An entirely cellular office is

not necessarily the only answer

because varying degrees of

privacy can be achieved by

using panels of varying heights.

Research back-up is the

strong suit of companies like

Steelcase which even employ

professional advisors to look

into the psychology of workers

in offices faced with change.

"Offices are about people

essentially", said Mr Osrin.

Although he expects the

impact of microtechnology on

the office to be enormous in the

next few years, Mr Osrin

questions how far there will be

more working at workstations

in the home or in community

work centres. "That is a

generation away", he said.

Lucas has developed its

systems range after lengthy and

continuing consultation with

leading computer, telecom-

munications and microelectro-

nics systems makers worldwide,

according to Mr Jack Lucas, the

company's marketing director.

With most office furniture

makers developing their sys-

tems either from a wood

manufacturing base or a steel

construction base, Lucas has

aimed at a balance between the

elements of wood and steel. He

added: "Britons seem to like

wood better, it is a more

traditional view."

After a slowdown in sales

that set in last September Mr

Lucas has seen a sharp increase

in trade in the past few months

and believes there will be

sustained market growth the

rest of this year. Lucas itself is

looking from now to a turnover

increase of 23 per cent or more

in the next 12 months.

A key factor he believes is

that companies are looking hard

to saving on expensive office

space. He claims planned

systems workstations could

save at least 20 per cent of space

while allowing the same level of

productivity.

At G. A. Harvey design

manager Mr John Fogarty says

that some systems furniture can

be too bland with a tendency to

depersonalize an office.

With colour features and

other detail differences workstations

can be personalized. He

said: "We feel the British

market in particular does not

like too much of a dictated

philosophy".

How far many of the British

manufacturers succeed in the

systems market could well

depend on how far a distinctive

British taste in office furnish-

ings and systems continues to

find a place as the office

revolution continues.

Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

months before buying, for many

machines simply will not do all

that the sales literature claims.

This is particularly true of the

smaller models with a range of

features, like pause, reduction,

enlargement, mono component

toner, and cold pressure fusing.

"Sending an idea around the

world in 40 seconds", is the

result of what Canon calls the

perfect marriage of telephone

and copier. A telephone pro-

vides instant verbal communica-

tion, the copier, instant

copies. The new Canon FAX

provides both, through copy

transmission. The original

document is placed on the

machine, the recipient is then

dialed by phone,

TELEPHONES

Switching away from cord and plug

The private telephone exchanges operating in Britain today present the greatest range of contrasts in the history of the office.

At one extreme are antique manual switchboards at which an operator sits, plugging office workers into contact with the outside world. Cord-and-plug exchanges, little changed from the 1890s, really do survive in a few old buildings. And manual switchboards of a more recent vintage live on in surprising numbers.

The latest digital PABXs (private automatic branch exchanges) represent the other extreme. They switch both voice and data, within the office and to outside telephones and computer terminals, integrating all communications in a single network. It must be remembered that they still belong to the office of the future; there are fewer integrated digital networks in Britain today than cord and plug.

Remember too that a digital PABX, switching voice and data on conventional telephone lines, is not necessarily the most appropriate system for transmitting information within the office. If the volume of data is high, as for example in a highly automated office with an electronic workstation on every desk, a special cable - the local

area network - may be required to cope with internal traffic.

The local area network supported by most equipment suppliers is Ethernet, developed originally by Xerox. However, there are many other types, and Datapoint's Arc network still leads in the number of installations worldwide.

Digital exchanges switch both data and voice as a series of on-off binary digits (the "bits" of computer code) instead of the continuously varying analogue signals by which the telephone system traditionally transmits speech. The prime advantages of a digital network, apart from voice-data integration, are speed of switching and accuracy of transmission.

Obviously you enjoy those benefits to the full only if every element of your network is digital. Speed and quality inevitably suffer if the signals have to be converted from digital to analogue for part of their journey.

There is no difficulty in installing a fully digital network within a single office, but long distance communications with the outside world are a different matter. The conversion of British Telecom's public telephone network from analogue to digital switching is just beginning, with the introduction of the first System X



Dealers using British Telecom's communications terminal combining telex and computer.

exchanges. Despite the immense investment which BT has made in digital or an abbreviation for exchange, the job will not be finished until the next century. However, BT is introducing a new range of digital services for business under the label X-stream (in the confusing world of telecommunications

within Britain, with electronic lines leased from BT. One of the first companies to offer private lines for digital transmission is Mercury, its competitor, will also offer companies private lines for digital transmission.

So, for the first time, a company can now plan an entirely digital private network

(SLIs from GEC's Reliance Systems) and about 50 smaller exchanges (mainly Monarchs from BT).

Under the tidy and uncompetitive arrangement that existed until the current liberalization of the British telecommunications market, BT enjoyed a monopoly on the supply of small PABXs (serving fewer than 100 extensions) which it bought from a select band of manufacturers (GEC, Plessey, STC, TMC and a recent recruit, Mitel). On the other hand customers purchased large exchanges directly from a few approved manufacturers (foreign companies were excluded unless they agreed to make the equipment in Britain).

Liberation is beginning to break down the barriers. This year BT loses its sole right to supply small PABXs, though the technical approvals process for new, privately supplied equipment is running so far behind schedule that the real benefits of competition may not be felt until next year.

Purchase prices of BT's smallest exchanges start at about £1,000 for the Senator (made by GEC) and Ensign (TMC), which serve as few as four extensions. Maintenance charges will be at least £15 a quarter. At the other extreme, the largest PABXs with thousands of extensions cost several hundred thousand pounds.

After a thorough analysis of the future prospects during liberalization, the office equipment guide *What to Buy for Business* advised companies not to buy PABXs to take them into the 1990s until "true competition" arrives. "Wait a year or two, and you'll have more to choose between, you'll pay less and you'll get more".

Clive Cookson
Technology Correspondent

Despite all the forecasts which have been made about the arrival of electronic mail and the disappearance of paper, sending a message from one to another remains much as it has always been. The message - whether it is an invoice, a sales letter, or anything else - is written on paper, an envelope is addressed, the paper is folded and placed in the envelope, the envelope is stamped or franked, and finally it is posted.

The entire activity is vast. There are 26 million letters and parcels being mailed each day by the business sector in Britain, and handling them all is a highly labour-intensive operation.

Indeed, in many companies the mailroom is the last outpost of the pre-technological age. But if electronics is not yet replacing paper, it is at least coming to the rescue to make mail handling more efficient.

There can be no single answer to mailing efficiency, because mail is generated and delivered in so many different ways. At its simplest, there is a secretary typing letters and putting them in envelopes. There is scope for automation only when all the letters from all the offices throughout a single organization arrive in the mailroom to be posted - usually late in the afternoon.

More amenable to modern handling methods are semi-standard documents like invoices and statements, which can be generated at high speed by computer. They demand equally high-speed mailing techniques if there is not to be a bottleneck.

Finally, there is bulk mailing of sales literature and other promotional material, where the scale of operations means that a whole array of technology can be brought into play: laser printing, automatic folding and insertion, and automatic sorting among them.

For years, many companies have been easing the log-jam in the mailroom by franking everyday post, rather than sticking on stamps. Pitney Bowes, a leading company in mail processing, estimates that the UK market for meter franking is worth about £20m, with 135,000 users.

Electronics is now being applied to this aspect of mail processing in a big way. Pitney Bowes has introduced a postage meter which can be hooked up to other pieces of equipment, such as scales and accounting

ling, and other types of paper handling.

Once mailing operations move to true bulk volumes, such as are found in direct mail, several more high-technology products can be brought into play. The capital investment is likely to be high, but these days direct mail is very big business indeed.

A key element in much of this type of mailing is the laser printer which combines computer technology with lasers and electrography. Instead of using metal type or filmstrips, a laser printer creates characters electronically and holds them in the form of software. The image is created by laser beams using a high-quality dot matrix method, with the characters being formed first on the surface of a photoreceptor drum, and then transferred to a continuous web of paper.

Although laser printing equipment is costly - a system from Sperry, for example, costs about £200,000 for the basic configuration - many bulk mail users find this worth while. There is an extremely wide range of founts and other images available, and varying information can be introduced during printing runs. It is not necessary to have special stationery or pre-printed forms.

An example of laser printing in practice is the Post Office's Royal Mail Electronic Post, which combines laser techniques with computer transmission and hand delivery. This allows text and addresses to be sent electronically over long distances, and then printed and delivered locally.

All the Post Office needs is the text of the message and a list of addresses on magnetic tape, logos and signatures where necessary, and the required delivery date. The information is transmitted digitally over normal telephone lines. At the receiving end, the signals are converted, and used to print the letters and addresses by laser. The letters are then inserted into envelopes automatically, and are delivered by the postman in the usual way.

Pitney Bowes' managing director, John Moody, believes that far from declining, there will be even more paper in the office of the future than there is today. "The use of paper in business is still growing at 4 per cent per year", he says, "and if this growth continues there will be twice as much paper in our offices by the year 2000".

Even so, there are develop-



Handling the mail with the Pitney Bowes telephone computer system.

systems. By linking a parcel scale to the meter, for example, the weight is automatically converted into the cost, and a correctly printed postage label is produced.

The chore of taking the postage meter to the nearest Post Office when the credit level expires, so that the meter can be reset, is also on the way out. Pitney Bowes has introduced a system called RMRS (Remote Meter Resetting System), which allows postage re-crediting to be carried out by phoning a computer from the office or mailroom. This takes only 90 seconds, compared with an average of 40 minutes for the return trip to the Post Office.

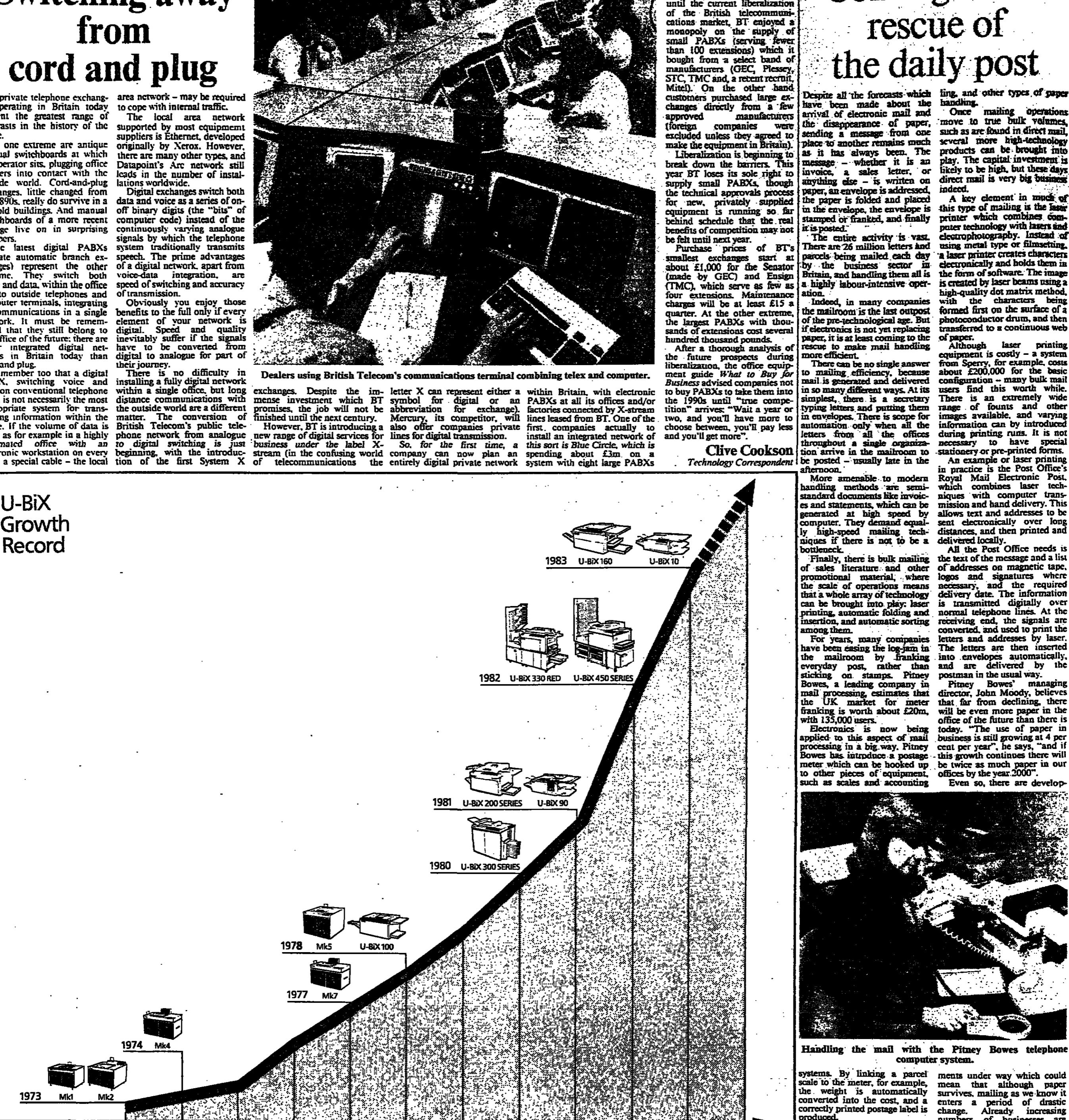
Centralization of computer printing and mailing operations can result in some impressive savings. One company which took this course estimates that it reduces its 1982 postage bill by about £20,000. Another user, this time a local water authority, has invested £100,000 in systems of this type, but it expects the cost to be recouped within two years.

One example of the advantages which modern equipment can provide is the sorting of outgoing mail by post code. As the Post Office offers discounts of up to 30 per cent on the postage for mail sorted in this way, there are immediate hard cash benefits.

Some of these systems are only applicable to large organizations with substantial volumes of mail, but other equipment has been designed for the smaller user. A recently introduced machine is small enough to stand on a table-top, and will automatically insert invoices, statements and direct-mail literature into envelopes.

Equipment is also on the market which can take care of folding, envelope sealing, label-

Coming to the rescue of the daily post



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RW

EQUIPMENT LEASING



Pam Ayscough: 'once you have leased it you're stuck with it'

The year 1982 saw a ten year record for the equipment leasing industry. According to the latest available annual report of the Equipment Leasing Association (ELA) computer and office equipment leasing continued buoyant and, at £447m, showed an increase of 26 per cent over the previous year.

When Sir Geoffrey Howe addressed the association last year, he emphasized that the growth of leasing has kept investment in the economy at a higher level than would otherwise be the case. In the UK more than 11 per cent of all new capital investment is financed by way of leasing, and despite the problems of recession and unemployment, the UK accounts for a third of the total European leasing market.

The association admits that leasing offers an attractive alternative source of funding for companies, and there has been an increasing trend towards larger and longer transactions - in 1982 50 per cent by value of all leases were for terms exceeding five years.

Many groups, including some of the largest blue chip companies which had previously used leasing mainly for smaller items of plant and equipment, turned in 1982 to leasing as a source of finance for much larger items. Had leasing facilities not been available, it is unlikely, says the association, that "that investment by industry during the recession would have taken place on such a scale".

Though leasing is not new - its origins can be traced back to the middle of the nineteenth century mainly in the coal and rail industries - it was not until 1980 that the importance of financial leasing as an alternative to hire purchase and loan facilities was acknowledged. Sir Geoffrey Howe, in his 1980 budget speech, said that leasing

Making sure about the small print

finance "has become an important - in many cases essential - source of finance for investment in manufacturing industry".

In equipment leasing, as practised by members of the ELA, the actual supplier of the equipment is entirely independent of the lessor and the equipment is chosen by the user who then negotiates a lease.

Leasing companies can be very complicated documents and often many lessors sign them without fully realising the commitments and compromises. One reason is the eagerness of the lessor to acquire the equipment, usually at a time when there is a lack of ready cash available.

Although some lessors have said that leasing does away with concerns over obsolescence as the lease agreement can provide for a replacement machine as soon as technology develops, a cursory sample taken last week revealed that many had leasing agreements which prohibited cancellation in favour of replacement or upgrading of models.

Pam Ayscough, who runs PA Secretarial Services, highlights

some of the problems she has encountered with leasing, saying "once you have leased it, you're stuck with it." She has been left with a word processor which did not come up to standards of expectation or performance. She complains that the leasing charge does not always cover all the extras necessary - paper feeders, acoustic hood, software, memory capacity, maintenance, insurance, printwheels, diskettes, ribbons, training manuals and so on. On signing a leasing agreement, one should ensure that the cost includes training, for if one has to pay extra to be sent on a training course, this adds further expense, which "can paralyse the cash flow".

Miss Ayscough encounters the same problems when leasing photocopiers, and insists that seldom does the leasing charge include the charge per copy. "This can be substantial if dealing in large quantities even though it may sound small when the manufacturer is talking of the charge for just one copy. In the excitement and eagerness to exchange contracts and get the equipment, one forgets all the extra costs such as collating, accessories, supply paper and after sales service."

She, like other members in the survey, felt that rental or outright purchase were preferable so long as these options did

not put a strain on the company's borrowing power or cash flow.

The rule of thumb appears to be to ensure that leasing agreements contain as much of these add-on costs as possible, particularly maintenance and insurance charges. The higher the cost of the equipment being sought, the more likely leasing offers attractions over outright purchase, with the former not involving considerable capital outlay. But some individuals in the survey felt the advantages of leasing "did not come free".

The lessor always owned the machine, and therefore it can never be shown as one of the lessor's assets, and usually "the lessor is not allowed to sell the equipment". The fact that the costs of leasing agreements are not normally shown on the balance sheet, and that they are "disguised debts" does offer the possibility, and danger, that they will become forgotten liabilities.

A careless company could find injudicious leasing agreements contributing to over-commitment. Once a lease is taken on, the company is committed regardless of its fortunes. Leases may be the ideal way for a company to use the most effective technology, but they require a continuing awareness and the same self-control as a personal credit card.

Many companies regard a lease as a continuous drain on resources, but the ELA would see them as self-financing,

because the resultant increased efficiency generates income to meet the charges and costs.

Initially though, it may be more prudent to rent the equipment on trial, and only commit the company when confident of its competence and cost.

Lynda King Taylor

SATELLITES

Getting messages from above

The network of satellites over the equator launched for the International Satellite Organization (Intelsat) has been described as a communications girdle round the Earth. Those spacecraft have made McLuhan's concept of the "global village" a reality by bringing disasters like earthquakes and famine, the politics of Eastern Europe and Central America, and international sporting and entertainment events into the living room.

Directed broadcasting satellites (DBS) will soon bounce signals direct to the viewer's television set. But this revolution brought by satellite technology is not confined to the domestic services for tele-

vision and telephone subscribers. Business and industry are reaping benefits that will become increasingly noticeable.

Telecommunications links have provided the channel for rapid exchange of digital data between high-speed computers, often in different countries. The route over which computer data or a telephone call is carried between, say, Birmingham, England, and Birmingham, Alabama, could be a mixture of terrestrial cable, transatlantic satellite and radio link.

Until recently those details were of little significance to the subscriber. Now there is a surge of interest by large commercial and industrial firms in the prospects of bypassing the

telephone network and transmitting voice and data over special satellite networks.

The stimulus for space communications applied to industry and commerce began in the United States with the formation of Satellite Business Systems (SBS), a jointly owned company of IBM, AT&T, and Comsat.

In the past most satellite systems operated at a frequency designed to allow the space link to be tied-in without difficulty to the terrestrial connection which distributed signals from ground stations to the subscribers.

Many of the current designs of satellites use a new technology and higher frequencies of operation that allow signals virtually to pepper the terrain beneath without interference.

Small antennae are placed on customers' premises, and as far as the subscriber is concerned as the signals arriving at that address make it look as if the satellite conveying them is dedicated solely to that purpose.

In fact, it merely means the receiver is filtering out only those messages with the right address code.

High-speed computer-to-computer data transmissions via this type of satellite are rare.

Nevertheless, in the United States newspapers like the *Wall Street Journal* would be almost impossible to deliver without satellites to transmit copy for remote printing.

International news magazines like *Time* are in the same position, and *The Economist* uses the technology to supply copy from the UK for its important North American circulation.

Direct receiving antennae are therefore sprouting on the roofs of office blocks and on the edges of industrial estates for collective use across the US. The services in use cover television conferencing and the electronic distribution of mail, in addition to telephone and computer traffic.

Innovation moves more rapidly in the US because of an "open skies" policy which allows a large number of competing satellite services.

There are eight American vendors with satellites in orbit, and three of them specialize in business services. Furthermore, a subscriber can buy satellite services in bulk and resell the unused capacity.

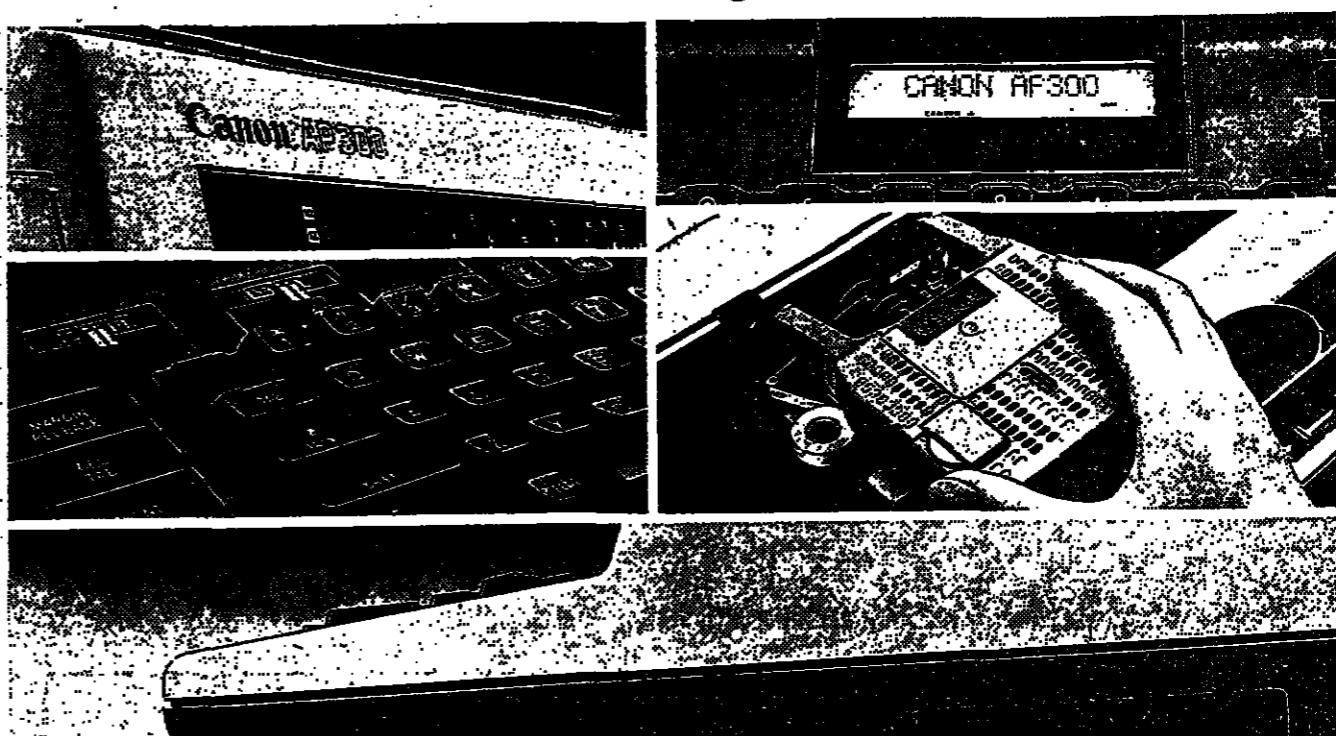
An agreement between SBS

and British Telecom can open some of these advantages to the multinational firms. Although business exploitation in Europe is at an embryo stage, the potential savings are there. Large manufacturers or banking and insurance companies in Britain have terrestrial communications networks consisting of thousands of circuits, and those links are paid for according to distance. Earth stations must become an increasingly attractive substitute on price and reliability grounds.

Pearce Wright
Science Editor

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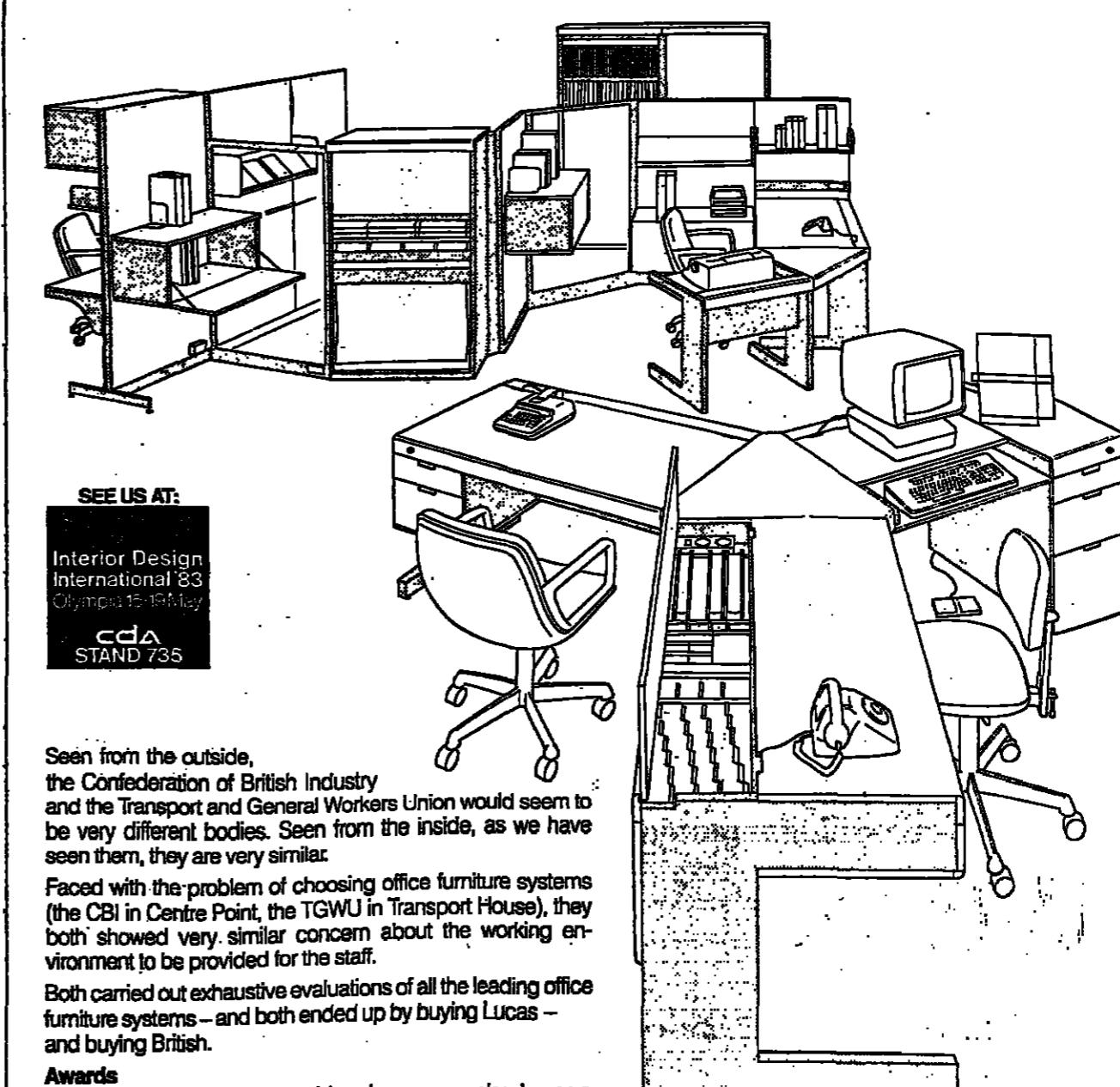
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How the CBI and TGWU came to agree on working conditions



Seen from the outside, the Confederation of British Industry and the Transport and General Workers Union would seem to be very different bodies. Seen from the inside, as we have seen them, they are very similar.

Faced with the problem of choosing office furniture systems (the CBI in Centre Point, the TGWU in Transport House), they both showed very similar concern about the working environment to be provided for the staff.

Both carried out exhaustive evaluations of all the leading office furniture systems - and both ended up by buying Lucas - and buying British.

Awards

Our determination to succeed has been recognised over a number of years by a long list of awards. For example, the winning entries in three of the last four Office of the Year Awards have been based on Lucas systems.

But of course the awards that please us most are business contracts.

Here, the list is even longer - it includes names like ICL, Shell, Barclays and American Express.

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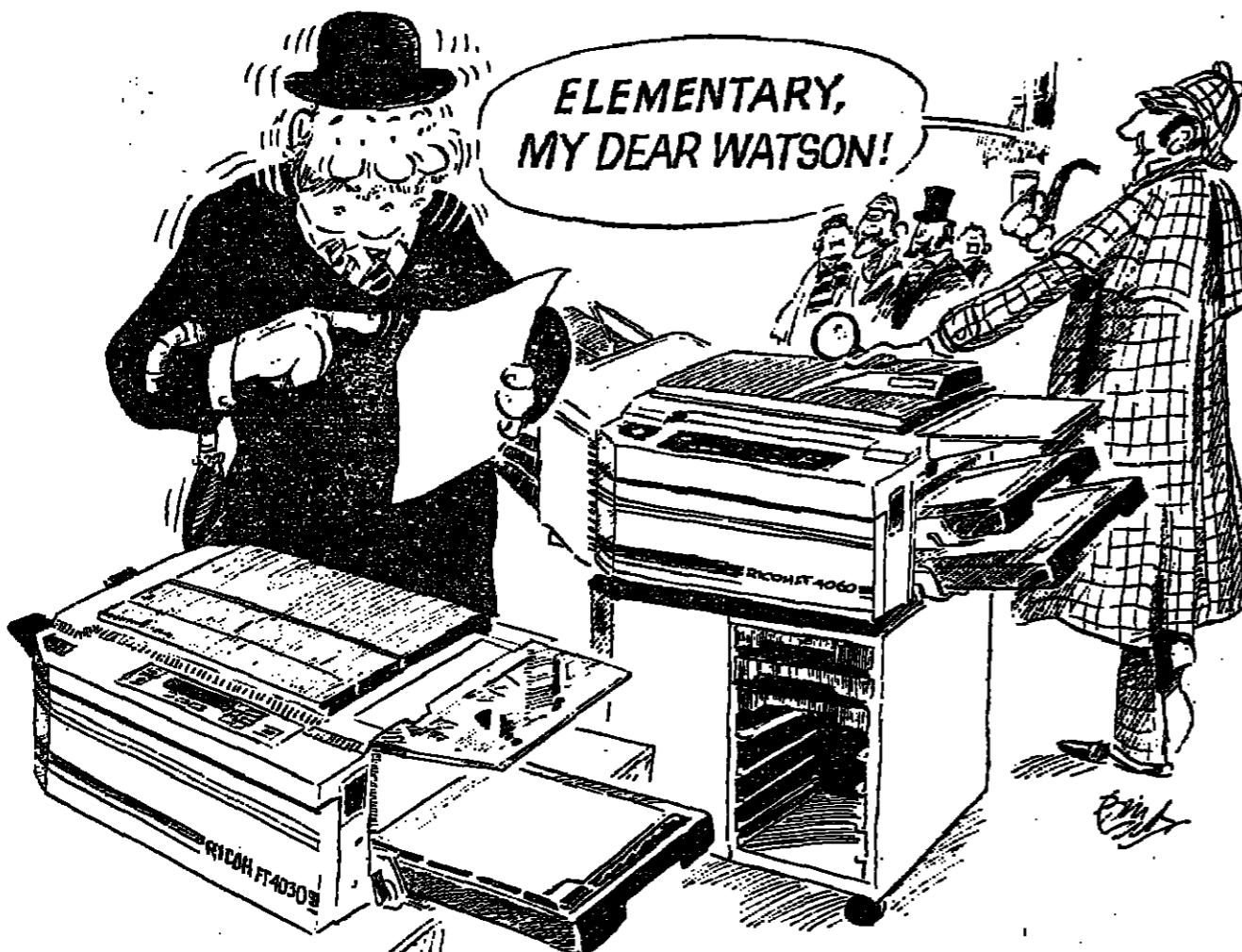
Position _____

Company _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

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Furniture
Systems**



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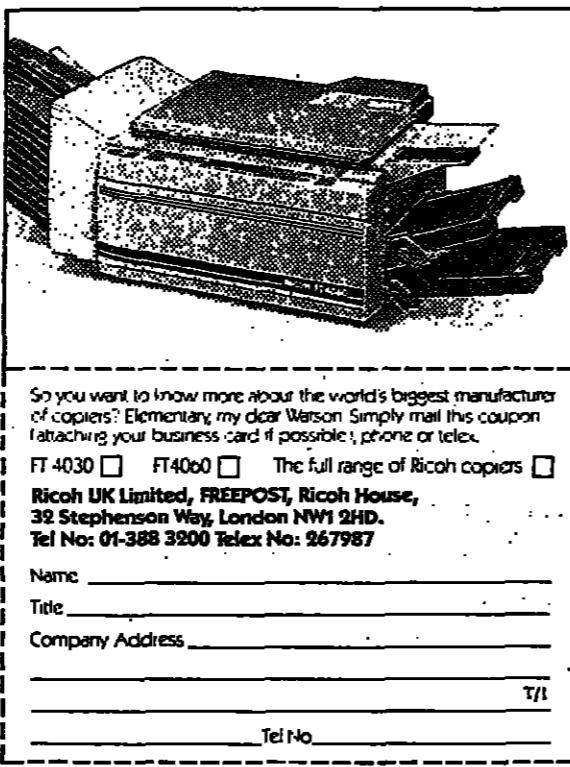
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Lighting engineers have developed a variety of alternatives to traditional office lighting which, they claim, can cut running costs by up to half. Since lighting can account for as much as 30 per cent of the total energy consumed by an office building, the potential savings can be substantial. In addition the new lighting systems offer economies in maintenance and replacement costs. The problem which office managers face is in selecting which of the rival systems best fits the work methods and style of particular premises and in balancing capital outlay against operating savings.

Earlier works' managers did not face the same dilemma. The banks of glaring fluorescent tubes which were a universal feature of offices built in the 1950s and 1960s were available initially only under post-war quotas from the United States. Translated from designs used for factory work, their main advantage was that they were considerably brighter than the 60 watt bulbs which, in many instances, they replaced. They were also extremely durable. Many of the fittings installed more than 30 years ago are still in operation.

The sudden focus on energy costs in the mid 1970s unleashed innovation from a variety of areas - in lamp technology, design of fittings and, thanks to the microprocessor, increasingly in switches and control mechanisms. In designing the new office systems, the lighting engineers, who maintain that their profession is as much an art as a science, drew on experiences from the theatre and shop window displays as well as industry. A bewildering variety of new techniques catch fervently backed by rival experts has resulted.

Arousing most controversy currently is "uplighting", a method which, as its name suggests, directs light up to rather than down from the ceiling - rather like medieval torches. High intensity lamps of the new high pressure sodium, discharge or metal halide type are mounted on walls or inserted in the top of freestanding units which can also be used as furniture. It results in a soft umbrella of light bounced back from the ceiling which most people find aesthetically pleasant.

The uplighting technique which is a very old one has come into vogue for advanced modern offices mainly because of its advantage in eliminating

VISION

Shedding a bit of light on the subject



Douglas Mutch: reflections on the screen spoil the job.

reflections from computer screens. Since the light source is concealed there is no glare.

The main controversy centres on efficiency in energy use. Uplighting systems have not been in general operation for long enough to prove that indirect light alone is sufficient for the majority of office workers - particularly those aged 45 and upwards who generally require higher light intensities than their younger colleagues.

Philips, the world's largest lamp maker, says it "does not approve of uplighting when it is presented as having energy-saving potential; that the high-intensity light sources used are at best only slightly more efficient than the new fluorescent lamps and as much as 60 per cent of their output can be lost in reflection from even a good ceiling". Although it adds that "Of course uplighters have a role in decorative lighting".

Nevertheless, uplighting is being used for a variety of office work - in new developments. These include the new Trustee Savings Bank headquarters at Andover, which has installed

louvers of slats of polished material baffle light sideways off the rough sides before releasing it downwards into the office. The system is remarkably efficient since most of the light generated eventually reaches the working surface from the bare tube. In traditional light fittings, opal diffusers and even the newer prismatic reflectors can cut out a quarter or more of the total light output emitted from the lamp.

If combined with recent developments in lamp technology the cost savings from the new types of fitting can be dramatic. Philips reckons that its new Triphosphor TLD lamps can cut lighting costs by about 50 per cent. The TLD lamp is only 1 inch in diameter compared with about 1½ inches for a conventional lamp and uses krypton instead of argon as a gas filling. Another new development, manufactured by both Thorn and Philips are the compact fluorescents which can be plugged into most filament lighting points, last five times longer than a conventional bulb, and use a fraction of the electricity to provide the same amount of light.

A wide variety of microprocessor-inspired new developments have taken place in remote controls, automatic time switches and dimmers. Some of these can be used automatically to turn unwanted office lights off near sunny windows, portable infra-red control boxes similar to those used for television sets could turn office lights on or off up or down. Lights can be dialled up or down via the office telephone.

However, before getting too carried away by new technology it might pay the energy conscious works manager to look at the mundane matter of cleaning existing light fittings. Experts calculate that dirt can cut light by more than 20 per cent.

Patricia Tisdall

STORAGE

Filing away

35 per cent each year up to 1987, to reach \$356.2m.

Kodak is considered to have the largest share of the CAR market, and its Oracle microfilm equipment is an example of what the technology can offer. Documents are filmed as they arrive in random order, after only a single rough-sort. Each one is allocated an eight-digit code, which appears under the page. To retrieve information, the microfilm is loaded into a reader, the appropriate code number is entered on a keyboard, and the document is located automatically in only a few seconds. If a copy is required, the machine can handle that too.

A British company, Allen Microfilm products (AMP), has developed a random retrieval reader with the help of the Department of Industry. The motorized reader is linked to a microprocessor-based keypad, known as the Blip Chip. By entering the required frame number, a single image out of 2,400 can be retrieved in a time between one and 40 seconds. This equipment will later be linked to a reader-printer, and finally to a computer, to make a complete CAR system.

Another office supplier, Lucas Furniture Systems, has developed personal filing systems built into desks: in this case, people who lose files can blame only themselves. Other freestanding units can accommodate computer printout, tape spools and disk packs, as well as traditional filing.

Often it is the sheer volume of information which causes problems of retrieval. Quite apart from taking up a lot of space, bulk files can present difficulties in indexing. If annotation is too simple, information retrieval can be very time-consuming and perhaps ineffective. At the other extreme, over-elaboration can lead to a vast number of indexes and cross-references which soon defeat their object.

It is for these reasons that micrographics is expected to have such a bright future. One of the companies offering a microfilming service, MAB, estimates that up to 98 per cent of filing space can be released for other uses by adopting microfilm or microfiche. A single unit, occupying the same space as a normal four-drawer cabinet, can hold more than 1,750,000 documents or 57,000 drawings.

Microfilm and microfiche systems not only reduce bulky paper files to manageable proportions, they also lend themselves to indexing which can make information retrieval much quicker.

A technology known as computer-assisted retrieval (CAR) marries micrographics with computing systems based on the microprocessor. The business research organization, Frost & Sullivan, has estimated that the US market for electronic filing and CAR micrographics should increase at least

optical systems. Technically, there are various approaches to optical storage, though most companies use laser beams to read data which has been encoded digitally on a disk about the size of a long-play record.

The thing that gives optical storage its edge over other techniques is sheer capacity. With Philips' Megadisc optical recorder, a single disk can store 2500 A4 pages of a document scanned in the normal way. But if the information is compressed by removing all the white space, storage can be increased to 50,000 pages.

The optical disk has been seen as a mass storage medium, which could be used for archives which users wish to consult, but not change. But this limited concept was turned on its head by the announcement last April from Matsushita of Japan that it has developed an optical disk on which data can be erased and re-recorded millions of times.

It has a maximum capacity of 1,000 million characters, and the longest time required to access any part of the stored data is less than half-a-second.

It is a long way from the grubby green filing cabinet groaning with out-of-date papers to the sleek laser disks encoded with megabytes of information, and although it may be time to pension off the cabinet, no one suggests that the highest of high-tech will take over completely.

RW

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POWER ASSISTED CLUTCH	-	-	-	-	-	S	S	S	S	
POWER ASSISTED STEERING	O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
LAMINATED WINDSHIELD	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
STEERING COLUMN LOCK	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
THERMOVISCOS FAN	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
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Parking car is no reason for not banning driver

Halim v Walklett
Before Lord Justice Ackner and Mr Justice Glidewell
[Judgment delivered May 11]

The facts that a driver had merely reversed across a street, and intended to drive a further two hundred yards, park his car and return home on foot were not capable of amounting to special reasons for not disqualifying the defendant under section 93(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 where he was guilty of driving having consumed excess alcohol contrary to section 6 of the Act.

The Queen's Bench Divisional court so held in allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the prosecutor against a decision of the Uttoxeter Justices not to disqualify the defendant, David Robert Walklett, from driving after conviction for driving with excess alcohol in his blood contrary to section 6 of the Road Traffic Act 1972.

Mr Patrick McCallum for the prosecutor: Mr Steven Redmond for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE ACKNER said

that the defendant was seen by a police officer on July 1, 1981 to attempt to reverse his car across a street. The car's engine stalled twice, and twice mounted the pavement to come to rest where the police officer stood. The vehicle was not displaying lights.

The officer administered a breath test which proved positive, and a subsequent blood test at the police station indicated an excess concentration of alcohol in the defendant's blood, in the ratio of 204mg per 100ml of blood.

He was convicted before the justices under section 6 of the 1972 Act. The defendant stated that he knew that he had driven past his destination, so had turned his vehicle around to drive the car two hundred yards to a car park, leave the vehicle there and walk home.

The justices accepted that the shortness of the distance actually driven, couple with the defendant's intention, were special reasons for not disqualifying the defendant under section 93(1) of the 1972 Act.

The court had been referred to the case of *Coombs v Akeoe* ([1972] 1 WLR 797), which had decided that

the case of *James v Hall* (*The Times*, June 26, 1968), in which the defendant had moved his car from the road into his friend's driveway, and in which the justices had held that that constituted a special reason to disqualify him, was one which should be confined to its own facts and should not be interpreted as stating a principle that parking a car was a special reason for not disqualifying.

It was difficult to distinguish this case from *Coombs v Akeoe*, save in so far as here there was no finding that the defendant had driven on the road on which the defendant had turned his vehicle around to drive the car two hundred yards to a car park, leave the vehicle there and walk home.

The justices accepted that the shortness of the distance actually driven, couple with the defendant's intention, were special reasons for not disqualifying the defendant under section 93(1) of the 1972 Act.

Mr Justice Glidewell agreed.

Solicitors: Beswick & Co, Stock-Treat, Walters & Welch, Stafford.

three justices, only one of whom sat at the original hearing.

Mr Justice Glidewell said that the defendant had been in considerable financial difficulty. The rating authority had sought a reduction of commitment in *In re Forster* ([1981] AC 1038, 1045) and to that time the justices had at that time conducted an inquiry in accordance with section 103(1)(a) of the 1967 Act and had postponed the issue of a warrant on the condition that the applicant paid £50 per week to the rating authority.

In this case that had not been done, so that the appeal would be allowed, so as to restore the original decision.

Mr Justice Glidewell agreed.

Solicitors: Amery-Parkes & Co, Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

Defaulting ratepayer should be heard before committal

Regina v Poole Justices, Ex parte Fleet
Before Mr Justice Forbes
[Judgment delivered May 5]

On an application for a warrant for committal to prison of a ratepayer who had failed to pay rates for which he was liable, justices were always under a duty to inquire in the ratepayer's presence as to whether his failure to pay had been because of wilful refusal or culpable neglect of his part before they considered the issue of such a warrant.

Mr Justice Forbes so held in the Queen's Bench Division, granting the application by Mr Derek Arthur Lucas, FRS, solicitor, to quash the issue by the Poole Justices on January 12, 1983 of a warrant of commitment against him under section 102 of the General Rate Act 1967 and to direct the refusal of an application for a warrant of commitment against him under section 103(1)(a) of the 1967 Act before commencing the issue of any further such warrant.

The situation under section 102 of the 1967 Act was sufficiently different from that under section 7 of the 1980 Act for his Lordship's application to cases under the 1967 Act to have been made it was necessary for the rating authority to prove to the court the failure to pay before the warrant was issued; in cases concerning fines, all that was necessary was to consult the court records to see whether the fine had been paid into court or not.

The situation under section 102 of the 1967 Act was sufficiently different from that under section 7 of the 1980 Act for his Lordship's application to cases under the 1967 Act to have been made it was necessary for the rating authority to prove to the court the failure to pay before the warrant was issued; in cases concerning fines, all that was necessary was to consult the court records to see whether the fine had been paid into court or not.

Mr John Bryan for the applicant, the justices did not appear and were not represented.

Mr Justice Forbes said that the applicant had been in considerable financial difficulty. The rating authority had sought a reduction of commitment in *In re Forster* ([1981] AC 1038, 1045) and to that time the justices had at that time conducted an inquiry in accordance with section 103(1)(a) of the 1967 Act and had postponed the issue of a warrant on the condition that the applicant paid £50 per week to the rating authority.

Accordingly, certiorari would issue to quash the justices' decision and mandamus would go to direct the justices, if the rating authority applied again for such a warrant, to conduct an inquiry as required by section 103(1)(a) of the 1967 Act.

They had, however, fixed the term of imprisonment which he would be required to serve if a warrant were ever issued.

Having paid £50 for several weeks, the applicant had found himself in further financial difficult-

Council to pay £25,000 for bad faith in property deal

Bremer v Haringey London Borough Council
Before Mr Vivian Price, QC
[Judgment delivered May 6]

The plaintiff in this action, Mr John Bremer, was held by Mr Vivian Price, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge of the Chancery Division, entitled to succeed in a claim for £25,753

in proceedings begun that year by the plaintiff. The London Borough of Haringey, however, in breach of duty, in failing to negotiate with him in all good faith for the acquisition of his interest in 15 Crescent Road, Hornsey, London.

He had claimed that they had failed to comply with the terms of a purchase notice under section 180 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 relating to the property and had not proceeded to effect a sale to him in all good faith.

Mr P. R. Brunner for the plaintiff:

HIS LORDSHIP SAID that following the refusal of an application for planning permission, the plaintiff's solicitors in March 1975 served a notice under section 180 of the 1971 Act requiring the defendants to purchase his freehold interest in 15 Crescent Road.

On May 12, the defendants' solicitors wrote that they were willing to comply with the plaintiff's purchase notice and that the plaintiff regarded that letter as a notice to treat in respect of the property.

There were negotiations and correspondence between the parties from then until 1977, when a valuation put on the property by a representative of the plaintiff was rejected by the defendants, and there was a lapse in the negotiations.

Particulars had been given of the loss and damage said to have been suffered by him in the way of lost rental and of rates paid on vacant property also of the cost of a report which had been made for him on a possible rental income from letting.

A similar report on the defendant's freehold interest had been prepared as an interlocutory order that report for both parties should be prepared.

The plaintiff had said in evidence he had expected that the whole

leading the plaintiff to an inference that the defendants had not any intention to pursue their rights under the notice to treat. But in 1979 notices of entry were served on the plaintiff under Part VIII of the Housing Act 1974, in effect reopening the question of the purchase of the property.

In proceedings begun that year by the plaintiff he was granted a declaration by Judge Rutherford on November 26, 1980 that the notice to treat of 1977 was no longer effective also that the notices of entry served by the defendants were of no effect.

The plaintiff's case was founded on a claim that the long negotiations for the acquisition of the plaintiff's interest in the property had not been conducted in good faith and that they had acted negligently and in breach of duty to the plaintiff.

Mr P. R. Brunner for the defendants:

HIS LORDSHIP SAID that the notice to treat in respect of the property had been issued by the plaintiff's solicitors in March 1975 following the refusal of an application for planning permission, and that there was a duty to negotiate in all good faith for the acquisition of the plaintiff's property.

Particulars had been given of the loss and damage said to have been suffered by him in the way of lost rental and of rates paid on vacant property also of the cost of a report which had been made for him on a possible rental income from letting.

A similar report on the defendant's freehold interest had been prepared as an interlocutory order that report for both parties should be prepared.

The plaintiff had said in evidence he had expected that the whole

result from the negotiations for purchase would have meant merely putting them before a committee of the council for approval, because of that, he had committed himself to the spending of a lot of money, and the details he provided of his expenditure had not been seriously challenged.

Counsel for the defendants had called no evidence which seemed an extraordinary way of defending an action in which allegations of bad faith had been made against them. He had relied on a series of informative and illuminating submissions both on the law and the facts, which had helped to clarify the issues to be decided.

The strongest of his submissions was one saying that even if the defendants had failed in their duty it did not give the plaintiff a right to a remedy in damages.

It seemed from the documents before the court that from 1977 onwards the defendants had not acted in good faith for the acquisition of the plaintiff's interest.

The documents showed a reprehensible degree of bad faith which was confirmed by the defendants' failure to produce any explanation of their conduct by appropriate evidence. It seemed therefore that the plaintiff was entitled to succeed in his claim.

As to the estimated figures for lost rental in respect of the property, the plaintiff's figures would be accepted by the court, although admittedly unsatisfactory, since the defendants, despite the interlocutory order, had failed to produce any.

Solicitors: T. Richards & Co; Mr T. R. B. Tierney, Wood Green.

Petition an abuse of process

In re a Company (No 001573 of 1983)

Before Mr Justice Harman

[Judgment delivered May 6]

His Lordship dismissed as an abuse of the process of the court a petition by the Chancery Division to wind up a company where an order for costs against the company had been obtained in the morning and the petition was issued the same afternoon, based on the prospective debt created by the order for costs and on other evidence suggesting insolvency.

Mr J. Libbert, QC and Mr John Jeffrey Littman for the petitioner:

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said the company moved to restrain the petitioner from advertising the petition, and to have the petition dismissed on the abuse of process.

The company owned one business by recovering coal from a site in south Scotland under a lease which was the company's major asset. The company was in grave financial difficulties.

Following the breakdown of negotiations with the petitioner for the assignment of the lease, the petitioner negotiated direct with the landlord for the grant of a new lease.

The company's lease contained the following clause: "In the event of English law being applied to this lease, that the lease would be 'irritated' (which his Lordship assumed meant 'forfeited') if a petition to wind up the company were presented.

The petitioner's agreement with the landlord provided that if a petition were presented before April 1, 1983, the landlord would terminate the lease and grant a new one to the petitioner. It was thus very much in the petitioner's interest that the petition should be presented before April 1.

On February 10, 1983 the petitioner served a statutory demand for payment of about £2,700. The company adopted the wholly wrong and improper course of beginning an action in the Chancery Division to restrain the petitioner from proceeding on its statutory demand, on the ground that the debt was disputed. That was false and unjustified, but an interim order restraining presentation was obtained.

However, as a result of advice

from the company's solicitors the debt was paid in full on March 14 and on March 15 the company's action was dismissed with costs.

On the same day, the order for costs having been made in the morning, the petitioner presented a petition, based on the allegation that the sum costs not yet having been taxed or agreed, your petitioner is the prospective creditor of the company in the taxed or agreed sum of its costs" estimated at £1,000. Further allegations were made to show insolvency and improper conduct of the company's affairs.

The company moved to restrain

advertisements of the petition and the matter thus came before his Lordship.

Mr Libbert said that a "prospective debt" meant a certain liability at a future date, such as a bill of exchange due in three months, and that unless the amount could be specified there was no prospective debt.

Second, he said that in any event the petition was not presented for the purpose of obtaining a winding up, but to enable the petitioner to obtain the benefit of the company's assets of its Scottish premises.

Mr Littman said that there was no reason to limit prospective creditors to those claiming fixed amounts and that the petitioner certainly did want a winding-up order and had presented and prosecuted the petition as required by the rules and provided the security set by the registrar.

He suggested that the company was plainly insolvent, and that the evidence disclosed a case for investigation of its affairs.

He asserted that *Bryanton Finance Ltd v De Vries* (No 3) (1976) Ch 633 showed that the court was not concerned with the reasons why the petitioner had presented his petition so long as he had sufficient grounds to found it.

The company's action on the basis of false evidence disputing the original debt so blackened its hands that the court should refuse it equitable relief.

Neither side's arguments met the point raised here. First, it was true law that the Companies Court was not a debt-collecting court, the proper remedy being execution on a judgment, a distress or a garnishee order.

The true position was that a

Mine tackle no obstruction

Jennings v National Coal Board
Before Lord Justice Stephen, Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice Slade

[Judgment delivered April 28]

Where a road in a mine was one in which vehicles or conveyors ran or which was used at the beginning and end of the working day, the duties of the manager of the mine under section 24(1)(b) of the Mines and Quarries Act 1954 extended to the whole of the road out of the mine.

Mr Jennings complained that the angle iron lying on the floor, and the metal and wooden stakes which had been put up to support the iron, were an obstruction to the conveyor.

The court decided that at the time of the accident Mr Jennings was not in an area which was the recognized workplace at the time he went to go and take his snap at the side of this roadway in an area where it was not right, proper and proper that material should be stored.

Mr Jennings knew the area to which he was going was the workplace.

It was not an obstruction if the ordinary course of things it was out of place, had no right or business to be where it was, ought not reasonably to be there, and served no useful purpose there;

Alexander v Tredegar Iron & Coal Co Ltd ([1945] AC 286; *Cook v British Coal Board* ([1961] 1 WLR 1392); *McGann v National Coal Board* (unreported, March 5, 1975).

The same authorities indicated that in order to be an obstruction an

object must be a source of risk to persons ordinarily using the floor, a danger in the accepted sense of a reasonably foreseeable cause of injury to anybody acting in a way in which a human being might be reasonably expected to act in circumstances which may reasonably be expected to occur; *Class & Sons v Wales Ltd* ([1962] AC 367, 412).

The angle iron was in its proper place in the area regularly used for storing such necessary equipment although not stacked, and was not a reasonably foreseeable cause for injury to any person using that area.

Did the subsection require a whole width of the road to be kept free from obstructions or was the duty imposed discharged by providing a passage of adequate width which was free from obstructions?

The subsection applied to every width of road in which vehicles or conveyors ran, or not fewer than 10 persons walked to and from their place of work. If it was such a road it had to be unobstructed.

But as the machinery in a factory obstructed but was not the sort of obstruction to which section 28(1) of the Factories Act 1961 referred (see the judgment of Lord Justice Dandekers at p1059 in *Pengelly v Bell Punch Co Ltd*) so a conveyor obstructed but was not the sort of obstruction to which section 34(1)(b) of the 1954 Act referred.

They did not have to comply with the safety requirements of the subsection.

Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice Slade agreed.

Solicitors: Brian Thompson & Partners, Manchester; Mr C. T. Peach, Doncaster.

Three chief justices in one court

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Lee Cooper
Year to 31.12.82
Pre-tax profit £10m (9.1m)
Stated earnings 25.68p (27.73p)
Turnover £36.5m (£7.7m)
Net final dividend 2.10p, mkg 3.32p
(3.01p) Dividend payable July 4

G R Holdings
Half-year to 31.2.82
Pre-tax profit £853,030 (£1.1m)
Stated earnings 10.8p (14.5p)
Turnover £10.5m (£11.2)
Net interim dividend 1.6p (1.6p)

Argus Press Holdings
Year 1982
Pre-tax profit, £3.3m (£2.3m)
Stated earnings, 22.74p (£8.93p)
Turnover, 265m (£52.5m)
Net dividend final, 2.65p mkg 4.9p
(9.3p)

Sears Holdings

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 1983

	1982/83	1981/82
	£m	£m
Turnover	1,597	1,491
Trading profits after interest	111.0	97.5
Group profits before taxation	113.5	104.0
Taxation	(45.7)	(39.2)
Extraordinary items	(3.0)	(20.9)
Dividend	(25.1)	(22.4)
Added to reserves	38.9	20.3

• Trading profits after interest increased by 14% to £111m.

• Dividend increased by 12% to 2.8p per share.

• Property revaluation surplus £119m added to reserves.

• 1 for 2 scrip issue.

Copies of the 1982/83 Annual Report will be available from 3rd June 1983 and may be obtained from The Secretary, Sears Holdings plc, 40 Duke Street, London W1A 2HP.

Footwear retailers • departmental stores, jewellery and other retailing • motor vehicle sales, service and delivery • licensed betting offices • property development and investment • engineering.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Sandy McLachlan

Why time may be on Tilling's side

Predictably, the BTR sighting shot of £600m for Thomas Tilling has received acceptances of only 4.2 per cent, but BTR's adviser, Morgan Grenfell, has settled at this stage simply for extension rather than anything more positive.

Obviously there is a long way to go yet, unless BTR allows its bid to lapse - which is fairly inconceivable at the moment. Hence Tilling's share price at 205p is still comfortably above the BTR cash offer of 189.4p.

The main plank in the Tilling defence, so far anyway, has been the assertion that the sum of the parts is more than equal to the whole which, if anything, backs up BTR. Also, asset values are of use only in a break-up situation which, again so far, the Tilling management has said is not the case: indeed, it is BTR which is being damned as an opportunistic asset stripper.

The real defence, however, is likely to be that Tilling is prepared to do some form of asset-stripping itself. It has already argued that Tilling shareholders and not BTR's should benefit from any form of "deconglomeration".

If BTR does decide to come back with a realistic bid of 220p or more, Tilling, backed by its advisers S. G. Warburg, is willing, it appears, to prove its point by reversing at least some of more than a generation's work that has gone into making the group the widely-based industrial conglomerate that it is today.

Quite what form that would take, both Tilling and Warburg are keeping firmly up their sleeves.

The more time BTR gives the opposition to make its plans, the more convincing these plans are likely to sound.

Certainly Tilling shareholders could be quite easily confused by the prospect of holding shares directly in some of the big subsidiaries as an alternative to the BTR offer.

Obviously the message at the moment is to hold on, and await developments.

Worldwide, the weaker pound contributed £7.9m to profits. The interest charge also fell from £19.5m to £18.3m which reflects lower interest rates and includes a currency benefit of about £3m.

Results in 1982 against 1981 show few changes in the South American, North American, European, African and British markets. But Asia and Australia showed a heartening upturn.

The 40 per cent owned Indian associate company turned in £5m against £2.5m.

Coats Patons sees only

more turmoil, both political and economic, in South America but little opportunity of decreasing its reliance on those markets.

United Kingdom workforce

shrank by 1,200 last year to 16,500. More redundancies, already provided for, will come with the impending closure of a mill in Paisley, Lanarkshire.

The European workforce has

been cut by a third over two

years and the production of

industrial threads reorganised.

The attempts at diversification over the last seven years

have not been entirely success-

ful and the rather esoteric oil

fish farming exercise in Scot-

land, which has lost £1m over

four or five years, will be sold or

closed. But Coats is looking for

acquisitions with a top price of

around £20m.

The first increase in the

dividend for three years will be

of some comfort to shareholders

who otherwise have little to

smile about. The City looks on

Coats as an operator in the

commodity textile sector and

wishes a great deal about South

America.

Ultramar

Ultramar

First quarter to 31/3/83

Pre-tax profit £4.7m (£43.7m)

Stated earnings 20.8p (17.8p)

Turnover £423m (£249m)

Share price 73p, no change.

The 1982 results from Spear

& Jackson International

Year to 1.1.83

Pre-tax loss £1.8m (profit £384,000)

Stated loss 30.8p (1.1p)

Turnover £22.6m (£20.6m)

Net total dividend (final passed) 1p

(6.575p)

Share price 73p, no change.

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Stated loss

Professor Maurice Peston on
Wynne Godley and Francis Cripps's
attempt to 'rebuild macroeconomics'

A failed attempt to reconstruct Keynes

I must start in a rather unconventional way by pointing out what this book is not. *Macroeconomics* is not a survey of macroeconomics, either of theory or of recent controversy about the applicability of theory to the real world.

It is not even an account of Keynesian macroeconomics, at least insofar as that subject is studied and taught in the main academic centres of the US and Britain.

Indeed, one of its more remarkable characteristics is its lack of reference to the publications of virtually all major contemporary contributors to the subject. There is a kind of nursery school democracy about it - if one economist is not to be quoted then none shall have that honour. Whatever else one makes of it, therefore, for the publishers to call it a masterpiece is simply preposterous.

Of course, the authors themselves make no attempt to mislead. To quote them, "What we are hoping to do is establish a logical framework for the analysis of macroeconomic phenomena which is coherent and simple enough to rinse away some of the sheer confusion which surrounds the subject at present, thereby facilitating orderly and creative work on the problems of stagnation, unemployment and inflation..."

The model

In other words, they are trying to rebuild macroeconomics rather than explain it. I am tempted to go further and say their book reads as if they believe that macroeconomics did not exist before they invented it in their part of Cambridge University.

The theory we are offered in the first instance is in three parts. There is a simple model of an economy in which the variables are expressed in ordinary monetary units. Secondly, there is an account of price inflation. Thirdly, an attempt is made to go from the first two to an analysis of the economy in real terms.

The simple model has several characteristics which are worth noting. It lumps together all private expenditure except inventory accumulation. Thus, it ignores the distinction between consumption and investment which Keynes thought so important. It postulates a fixed normal relationship between assets and incomes, and for the most part between the money stock and income which is a central postulate of primitive monetarism.

Essentially, private expenditure is determined by the desired rate at which the actual money stock is brought to equal the desired one. Inventory accumulation is fixed independently and this is financed by bank loans in the form of money. That is very much part of the approach favoured by Sir Dennis Robertson (again not mentioned by name), who was both Keynes's colleague and intellectual opponent.

Variables

Government expenditure is on goods and services, transfer payments being included in the postulated fixed tax rate (i.e. it is a rate net of transfers). Stock equilibrium in the model requires a balanced budget. This means that income and output are determined by the two fiscal variables.

Monetary policy has only transitory effects on real output (as the monetarists themselves state) unless it affects government expenditure or the average tax rate. (Although not a point the authors stress, it may well do both).

Also, in full static equilibrium, there can be no asset accumulation, and, therefore, private income must equal private expenditure.

The inflation model is of the strict cost push kind. It claims to be compatible with other theories, but will, presumably, only be so if they are equivalent to price being a simple mark-up on given unit cost. Underlying their approach to the general price level is the view that inflation is the way the system accommodates itself to conflicts about shares of total income, but this is not elaborated.

It is also interesting to see that they accept the distinction between the nominal rate of interest and the real rate.

They do not however, emphasize the expected inflation rate as the limit; nor do they postulate money demand as a function of the nominal rate. Thus, they do not reach Friedman's conclusion that the demand for real balances falls as the inflation rate rises even with the real rate of interest constant.

They have some useful things to say about inflation accounting. This, they claim, provides the essential link which enables them to go from the nominal economy to the real one. In doing so, they appear to be arguing that their original model, and its analysis, is compatible with any inflation rate. However, it is not, and it is easy to see why. (I say "appear" because their exposition in this part of the book is most opaque, and I am not sure I follow it.)

Equilibrium

If real income and the real stock of money are fixed in equilibrium, and there is inflation, income and money in ordinary units will be growing. It follows that to provide the extra money, the budget must be unbalanced in full equilibrium (and not balanced as their initial exposition states).

Moreover, it is then the case that, given real government expenditure and the tax rate, the faster is inflation, the lower will be equilibrium real output. It will also be true that the budget deficit will be larger.

Now, it remains true that, in this kind of model, expansionary fiscal policy does raise effective demand and real output to the extent that there are no supply constraints. But this goes hand in hand with monetary expansion, illustrating the standard point that monetary policy and fiscal policy can be regarded as two sides of the same coin.

Their view of the supply side is worth questioning. They argue that in a closed economy there cannot be a supply constraint in the sense that it will be unprofitable for companies to meet an increase in aggregate demand. What they mean by that, however, is merely that, given the level of money wages (or its rate of change), there will be a price level which companies can set which will make it profitable to supply the output.

That is, however, compatible with an extremely steep aggregate supply curve which causes most of an increase in demand to be dissipated in price rises rather than output expansion. Moreover, as they recognize by implication, in an open economy international competition may inhibit price rises and will certainly imply that some increase in demand will go to overseas suppliers because domestic companies find it unprofitable to meet it.

Puzzle

In addition, if the price response of companies conflicts with workers' real wage demands, it will again be unprofitable for the output demanded to be supplied. In my view, these last two considerations (coupled with a greater emphasis on expectations, rational or otherwise, that the authors give) are vital to an understanding of the economic history of the past decade.

At the risk of returning to the confusions of the 1930s, there is one puzzle to which I must refer. They say that money stocks and flows must satisfy accounting identities in individual budgets, and regard this as quite fundamental.

Now, I thought it had long since been recognised that there is nothing fundamental about an identity, which is this context is simply a way of organizing data. A budget constraint is another matter and is at the core of all economics since, without it, there would be no scarcity and no costs.

But a constraint is not an identity. In several places in the book Godley and Cripps appear to misunderstand the distinction between an equation and an identity. As an example, they go from an identity concerning price, costs, and a mark-up factor to a causal interpretation reminiscent of the quantity theory of money in its most misleading form.

All I can add is that this is very much in the tradition of Keynes who was equally confused on the nature of identities and equilibrium conditions.

I have been critical of this book in terms of style, method, and content. The authors claim to have re-established "the quintessentially Keynesian principle of effective demand as the determinant of real output and employment". In fact, they tell us nothing about employment, and their treatment of demand and policy is simplistic.

Macroeconomics by Wynne Godley and Francis Cripps. Fontana £3.95.

The June election has provided a welcome comic interlude for stock market analysts. They have spent the past few weeks agonizing over whether the long upward trend in share prices has come to an end or simply paused to rise again as world recovery really starts to materialize. Suddenly the time horizon has shortened to a month after polling.

The stock markets predict rather than genuinely react to events over the months; however much market dealers may like to rationalize daily movements by linking them to strikes, CBI forecasts or the Test match score. So, by the time Mrs Thatcher winged her way to the Palace, stock prices had already assumed her party would win the forthcoming general election, whenever it might be.

But markets day by day express movements, in sentiment, so the only way in the short-term was down. The slightest uncertainty over the result was bound to depress share prices. As so often, recently the impetus came from currency markets as foreigners decided to hedge their bets. Add the natural caution of stock-jobbers, keeping their options open and their books closed, and share prices fell 2 per cent in a day. But at least that means short-term prices can move either way as the campaign unfolds.

Already Pannier Gordon, the stockbroker, has bravely mapped out how the campaign diary might affect bonds and therefore shares. After the initial markdown, the best news should come with a remarkable price index for April due on May 20. Unemployment figures due on June 3 will be sharply

revised upwards.

There are always two sides to the market argument. Old hands taking the seaweed approach see signs of terminal decay in a bull market that took the FT-A all-share index up by two-thirds between September 1981 and its peak in mid-April.

There has been a spate of share-for-share takeover bids to capitalize on successful companies' buoyant currency.

Companies are being launched at fancy prices both on the main stock market and its unlisted securities offshore.

It is basically a matter of confidence at home and abroad. Likewise, good timing should yield short-term profits in the euphoria of a Thatcher win. Then it would be quickly back to more mundane analyses.

Some canny observers, such as Mr Stephen Lewis of Phillips & Drew, already see a returned Tory administration tightening up on the money supply to stifle any resurgence of inflation and inspire employers to stick out for a modest wage round this year. Others, it should be said, see a further cut in base rates as soon as confidence returns.

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RACING: DANTE STAKES SURPRISE THROWS EPSOM MARKET INTO CONFUSION

Dunbeath's Derby bubble bursts

By Michael Seely

Dunbeath was removed from the Derby betting after finishing a well-beaten, third to 'Hot Touch' in the Mecca-Dante Stakes at York yesterday. The 2-1 favourite was moved up to challenge halfway up the straight, only to weaken entering the last furlong. 'He doesn't stay,' Lester Piggott said. 'But that as it may, the only answer must be to dismiss Dunbeath from Derby calculations.'

Nothing must be allowed to detract from the merit of 'Hot Touch's victory. On Saturday, Geoffrey Wragg won the Lingfield Derby Trial with Teemo. Yesterday 'Hot Touch' put his rivals in their place equally firmly. Pat Eddery sent the colt into the lead two-and-a-half furlongs from home. Staying on with the utmost determination, 'Hot Touch' beat Crags of Navarone, by one and a half lengths, with Dunbeath 10 lengths away, third.

Not many horses win a group two classic trial after finishing fifth in a maiden race at Pontefract in the same season. Yet there was not the semblance of a fluke about this win. 'It's taken a long time to get him fit,' the trainer said. 'With hindsight, more use should have been made of 'Hot Touch' when he finished second to Balladier at Newbury. In their last workout together, 'Hot Touch' went a shade better than Teemo. He would be the better over ten furlongs, but not over a mile-and-a-half.'

'Hot Touch' was never entered for the Derby. 'He's not an Epsom horse. His pastures are too long, and the course wouldn't suit him.' The colt will probably go for the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) at Chantilly on June 5.

The Wragg stable has always been one of the top yards in the country. Harry Wragg saddled six English Classic winners during a reign of over 30 years at Abingdon Place. And in his first season to hold the licence, his son is operating with an equally certain touch. At the end of March, the trainer said that Teemo had the makings of a Derby horse, and events have dramatically proved his judgment right in this uncertain year.

The hunt is now on to find the possible winner of the Derby. Yesterday Vincent O'Brien confirmed Lomond as a certain runner in Saturday's



Handstand (left) comes through to win the Scarborough Stakes from Knoxville

Irish 2,000 Guineas, but the stable's Epsom plans are still uncertain. 'It would be marvelous to be able to tell you,' Robert Sangster said. 'All we want to do is to win the Derby. But with four other possibles besides, it is still impossible to say. However, the picture must inevitably be much clearer after the weekend.'

If Cecil is without a runner in the Derby, the burning question must now be what Piggott will ride as the astro-seer an incredible ninth triumph in the Epsom classic. Teemo and Tolomeo are obvious possibilities.

Eddery, Teemo's jockey yesterday, will be claimed for Balladier's selected runner and Wragg would obviously be delighted to have Piggott's services. But so too, presumably, would be Luca Cusani for his fast finishing 2,000 Guineas runner-up, Tolomeo. Gianfranco Dettoni is a fine jockey, but there is no substitute for previous successful experience in the Derby.

Predictably, the bookmakers are now as convinced as the punters. Both Ladbrokes and

Esso bookmakers offer 5-2 against O'Brien's stable. The 1-6s go 9-2 'Lomond', 11-2 'Gorytus' and offer 12-1 against Teemo and Tolomeo. These prices do not make sense, as Lomond is not a certain runner and there is still a cloud hanging over Gorytus's handsome head.

Teemo and Tolomeo, on the other hand, are three-year-olds who have shown that they have trained on. And anyone who backs either of the pair at these prices will be taking good value, as they are bound to shorten before the big day.

The rest of yesterday's programme was also packed with interest. Jack Berry continued to blaze his trial of success when Clantyne reversed recent Pontefract placing with Lak Lustre by a short head in the Saturday. Another English rider is Bill O'Gorman's Town Charlie (Tony Fives), who misses Newbury's Lockinge Stakes for the race.

At an inspection is to be held at 10.00 am today to see if tomorrow's meeting at Beverley can go ahead. A course spokesman said yesterday: 'We haven't had any rain for 36 hours, which has helped a lot, but any more rain would put the meeting in doubt.'

Bill Watts also showed us a useful two-year-old in Han-

Prince Spy to find secret of success

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

With Sweet Monday, Vaigly Star, On Stage, Fine Edge and Prince Spy all standing their ground overnight, the Duke of York Stakes should give us an inkling at York this afternoon of what to expect later in the season when the sprint championship reaches its climax.

Although she could boast only one humble victory at Brighton last season, Vaigly Star was not far behind the best. Indeed she would take some holding today if she were in the form that enabled her to finish second to Sharpie in the July Cup and second also to Indian King in the Cork and Orrery Stakes at Royal Ascot.

However, without the benefit of a previous race Vaigly Star could be found wanting in this race. Her stablemate Prince Spy, who will revel in the prevailing conditions tomorrow, Prince Spy made a deep impression on me at Newmarket when he romped away with a valuable handicap carrying 9st 4lb. Fine Edge, who finished fourth in the same race will be meeting him on only 3lb better terms today and that should be enough to bridge a five-length gap.

On Stage also impressed me at Newmarket when he won the Palace House Stakes decisively. On that occasion, though, he had all the allowances; this time he must give Prince Spy weight, to make matters worse his trainer, Bill O'Gorman, forgot to declare him to run weight-for-weight. That will not stop him winning them for the first time in his career. However, O'Gorman did say yesterday that his oversight should not affect his performance and that he only put blinders on On Stage in the first place because of his aversion to starting stalls, which seems to have been cured.

Sweet Monday, a mudlark just like his sire, Sweet Revenge, and his dam, Sweet Monday, has made a brilliant comeback this spring, after two seasons in the wilderness. He was runner up to Jester in this same race 12 months ago and that may be the most that his connections can hope for now.

Little Wolf, third to Ardross and Captain in the Yorkshire Cup a year ago, beat only a length on that occasion, looks poised to win the coveted trophy this time for Lord Goring, the owner of the stud and breeder. A good run in the John Porter Stakes at Newbury where he finished in front of both his stable companion, Broken Rail, and Khaoprom pointed to better things.

To picture Little Wolf at his best one only has to look at his run in last season's Jockey Club Cup at Newmarket where he gave the likes of Halsbury, One, The Neurologist and Karader a hiding. In that sort of form Little Wolf will be a tough nut to crack this afternoon.

Midulus of Kiveton, who can run up to a point in the Jockey Cup Stakes at Newmarket last month, will be a strong runner in the

South Africa bid for Graham

By Srikanth Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Herb Graham, the British and Commonwealth light-middleweight champion, has received an offer of £160,000 to box Wilfred Bealzebub, of Puerto Rico, the former world light-middleweight champion in Durban in August. The offer was made by Rod Burman, a Durban promoter, through Mike Barrett, who is Graham's agent for overseas bouts.

It is an offer that the black Sheffield boxer will find difficult to refuse - it is believed to be roughly eight times his total earnings since he turned professional five years ago.

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Burman said 'No problem.'

'Mr Barrett said yesterday, 'The boxer will be homeless in United States.'

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Britain's best prospect ends her low profile days

The secret marathon runner blows her cover and takes off

As British athletics ponders the disturbing probability of her leading contender at the women's first world marathon championship having a mile left to run by the time the winner finishes, waiting in reserve is a girl whose most notable sports achievements until last month were down the wing of a hockey stick.

Sarah Rowell, aged 20, is now a former hockey player. She convinced herself last month that she should retire from the game when she became the best woman marathon prospect Britain has yet produced.

It was not a decision taken lightly. She was an East of England under-22 attacker and a member of the 1981 national under-18 squad. She won a place at Chelsea College of P.E. Eastbourne, primarily on the strength of her hockey. But matches every weekend have been getting in the way of running, and the sixth fastest British woman of all time now wants nothing to obstruct her path to international recognition.

Her age alone would have been reason enough to predict an outstanding future after her improvement of 15 minutes on her best in the London Marathon. The fact that she became a Women's AAA bronze medal winner after an athletics career of only eight races, had received no qualified coaching and had never been heard of by most, if not all 12, members of the national squad, suggests that her time of 3hr 39min 11sec will not be her best for long.

Apart from two other marathons, in which she took almost three hours, and various insignificant road and cross country races, Miss Rowell has kept the kind of hidden profile that is normally the style of Kenyans and Ethiopians. It was as much of a surprise to Dartford Harriers as it was to women's distance running in general to learn that the girl who had become a member by telephone seven months earlier was how faster than all but Smith, Gould, Binns, Penny and Horowitz, among British women.

Most Dartford Harriers had never set eyes on her, few had ever encountered her name and when she made her first appearance at club headquarters two days after London, she was late, because she had no idea where Dartford was and got utterly lost. She possessed neither club vest nor that trademark of all ambitious marathon runners, the stopwatch strapped to her wrist.

While Joyce Smith, aged 45, Glynis Penny, 32, and Kathryn Binns, 25, will wear Britain's colours in Helsinki in August, their probable successor is introducing herself to training advice, diet and selective race programmes in an attempt to close the widening gap between British and world standards.

Neither Mrs Smith nor Mrs Penny, both mothers, can be expected to finish around the 2hr 25min mark which will be necessary for Olympic, European or world championship victories. Much depends on fresh young blood, and marathon runners do not come much fresher or younger than Miss Rowell.

She has been asked to represent her country before winning colours for her country, although she may decline the British Amateur Athletic Board's invitation to compete in the women's marathon at the European Cup in Laredo, Spain, on June 19. Miss Rowell is hoping that her event will be included in the World Student Games in Edmonton this summer and would prefer to race there.

She is pacing herself for impact on the Olympic Games next year, by then she may be ready. "I have underestimated the value of racing - I must get more racing experience and do more speedwork. If I can run that time on a year's serious training, most of it hit and miss, then with a coach, I may prove I am the girl of the future".

Cliff Temple, who advises Mike Gratton, the London Marathon winner, has agreed to refine her 95 miles a week training schedule. "What makes Sarah so remarkable," Temple says, "is that she was right here under our noses and we didn't know about her".



Rowell: girl who can go a long way.

Temple may not have known her, but she knew of him through his work as an athletic author. "Because I was so new I read everything I could. Every time a marathon book came out I read it - anything that was going because I had no idea what I was supposed to be doing".

Temple, her coach since May 1 has begun to delete the errors in her routine: "I was horrified to hear how much training she was doing so close to the London Marathon - 85 miles the week before. She won't do that again. What she will be doing, though, is more interval training".

The average age of the national squad, which Miss Rowell joined for training for the first time last weekend, is 33. The world's fastest marathons are being recorded by women who are considerably younger. Joan Benoit (United States), Alison Roe (New Zealand) and Grete Waitz (Norway) are all in their twenties with the American, most impressive of them all, the youngest of the three at 25.

"A year ago the only marathon runners I had ever heard of were Joyce Smith, Alison Rowell and Grete Waitz," Miss Rowell recalls. "What I notice most now is that the age is coming down".

She remembers vividly her first step from obscurity: her lonely wait in the women's rest tent before the start at London. "I got there early and it was empty. I was sitting on the table and the next person to walk in was Grete Waitz. I remember thinking this is going up in the world - just me and this legendary figure".

It would be nice if one day the roles were reversed".

David Powell

GOLF

Distance and course suit Scot

By John Hennessy,
Golf Correspondent



years ago. He is in the position of a fancied racehorse who has won over the distance and the course.

Wilmot has taken a pounding from the weather (but which player has not?) and players were allowed to use pram carts in yesterday's pro-am. There was little rain, however, and with another cut of the fairways it was hoped that normal conditions would obtain today. It is not a long-hitters' course, since the par is only 70, with two par-fives, both before the turn. Gallacher, a man of finesse rather than force, was able to bring in a final card two years ago at 16 under par for the tournament.

A Ryder Cup place beckons for the first 12 in the money list at the appropriate time. At the moment Langer, with £12,213, leads marginally from James, £12,060, followed by "Brand" X* with £10,636, Ballesteros with £10,509, Lyle with £10,029, Faldo with £8,524 from only one outing. Or a rough projection, £50,000 seems to be the maximum requirement. Ballesteros will not be playing this week.

Britain's deputy

Elsie Brown, of Llandudno (Maeaf) Golf Club, will be deputy captain of the Great Britain team for the women's Commonwealth tournament and also the Great Britain and Ireland side for the Vagliano Trophy.

MODERN PENTATHLON

Sex story could affect morale

Under the strain of a recent controversial press interview given by one of the women's team members to the press for France yesterday for their first contest of the season, at Beauvais.

Sarah Parker, Katherine Taylor and Teresa Purton, are there from last year's world championship team and Victoria Sorrey makes up the four. Missing from the team is Wendy Norman, the world champion, who has been in France all week studying sport. She will return to Britain shortly.

Since Miss Parker took the world silver last year and Miss Taylor the bronze and an injury reduced the highly-talented Miss Purton to a limp, the competition to stay in the team is going to be intense.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Hull team unchanged

By Keith Macklin

Despite the disappointment of defeat in last Saturday's Challenge Cup Final, Arthur Bunting, manager of Hull, has named an unchanged squad for Saturday's Premiership final against Widnes at Headingley.

Bunting has decided to make no changes, and he also counts Kevin Hawkins, the serum boy, to have recovered from the concussion which put him out of action for most of Saturday's final. Ironically, Bunting himself was yesterday ill in bed with influenza as he named an unchanged squad to include a team of thirteen and two substitutes.

John G. Kennedy, D. O'Brien, S. Evans, J. Leathem, P. Proctor, D. Taylor (captain), H. Herlin, T. Skerrett, K. Bridges, C. Stoen, L. Crooks, P. Ross, S. Norton. Substitutes: T. Day, M. Green.

Widnes are hoping to choose from a full strength squad, with Kevin Tamaki, their New Zealand prop forward, willing to play with pain-killing injections in his injured hand.

David Barends, the black South African winger, who plays for Bradford Northern, has suggested a summer tour of South Africa by a mixed nationality Rugby League party.

HOCKEY

The final pay-off

By Sydney Friskin

RAPC (Worthy Down) 1
2nd Field Regiment RA 0

The Royal Army Pay Corps Worthy Down brought the British Army Cup back to the United Kingdom by defeating the 2nd Field Regiment Royal Artillery in the final at Aldershot yesterday. The 45 Field Regiment had taken this trophy back to the Rhine last year.

This was the fourth success for the RAFC and they had to work hard yesterday to achieve it. They took command of the first 20 minutes, but the Gunners' tightly organised defence, in which Brindley was outstanding, prevented further scoring. The match was won and lost in the 18th minute when Rutherford scored after a brief tussle which followed a short corner.

Unfortunately for the Field Regiment they had little to show up front. Except for two short corners in the first half, which failed to control, they did not offer much of a threat. In the first minute of the second half, however, a quick surge through the middle ended in a well-hit shot by Wollocombe just missing the mark.

Cue for Davis

The world professional snooker champion Steve Davis will play in the Australia pro-am golf team to meet Australia for the Chef and Brewer Trophy at Moor Park on July 18.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

(11.00-4.30 unless stated)

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: CHESTERFIELD Derbyshire v Lancashire (2.30pm) at Old Trafford, Kent.

GLoucester Gloucester v Sussex.

SOUTHAMPTON Hampshire v Warwickshire.

NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v Nottinghamshire.

THE OVAL: Surrey v Leicestershire

11.00-7.30

Other Matches:

BURTON: Derbyshire v Northamptonshire

EMPH CC: Middlesex v Essex

GLOUCESTER: Gloucester v Glamorgan

NOTTINGHAM: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire

TAUNTON: Somerset v Warwickshire

EASTBOURNE: Sussex v Kent

NEWCASTLE: Northants v Lancashire

Nottinghamshire v Middlesex

Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire

Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire

Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire

Nottinghamshire v Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire

Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire

Nottinghamshire v Lancashire

Nottinghamshire v Middlesex

Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire

Nottinghamshire v Lancashire

Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire

La crème de la crème

Royal Postgraduate Medical School (University of London) Department of Diagnostic Radiology

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

Required to join the above Department with the services of a Secretary to the recently appointed Head of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology. This is a highly responsible position requiring a person who, through experience and relevant skills, must be able to exercise initiative in the day-to-day administrative and financial management of the department and be able to work with a confidence in dealing with a wide range of people.

The Department is interested in applications from people who have a good administrative and financial background and the person appointed will have a major supportive role within it.

Salary between £7,021 and £7,600 per annum, a 30 days annual holiday.

Apply with full CV to the Senior Administrative Secretary, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, Ducane Road, London W10 5TJ. Closing date: 12.00 noon, Friday 12 May 1983.

Closing date 27 May 1983.

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Budget rebate problem persists

By Patricia Clough

The European Community summit in Stuttgart on June 6 and 7 will not produce a long-term solution to Britain's contributions to the EEC budget and it is not certain that it will agree on Britain's 1983 rebate either, the House of Commons was told yesterday.

But MPs were assured by Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, that the Government was "absolutely confident that it will achieve a settlement of the (rebate) problem which is satisfactory to the House and the British people."

Meanwhile, in Brussels the budget committee of the European Parliament agreed not to block Britain's rebate for 1983 to avoid embarrassing the Government just before the elections. The Parliament is expected to approve the decision.

Last year, the European Parliament refused for several months to approve the rebate in order to force member governments to look for a long-term solution to the Community budget problem.

In Westminster, question time on EEC matters had turned into a miniature version of the forthcoming election campaign in which Britain's membership of the Community is likely to be one of the principal issues. Catchy phrases and figures flew as members on both sides tried out their ammunition.

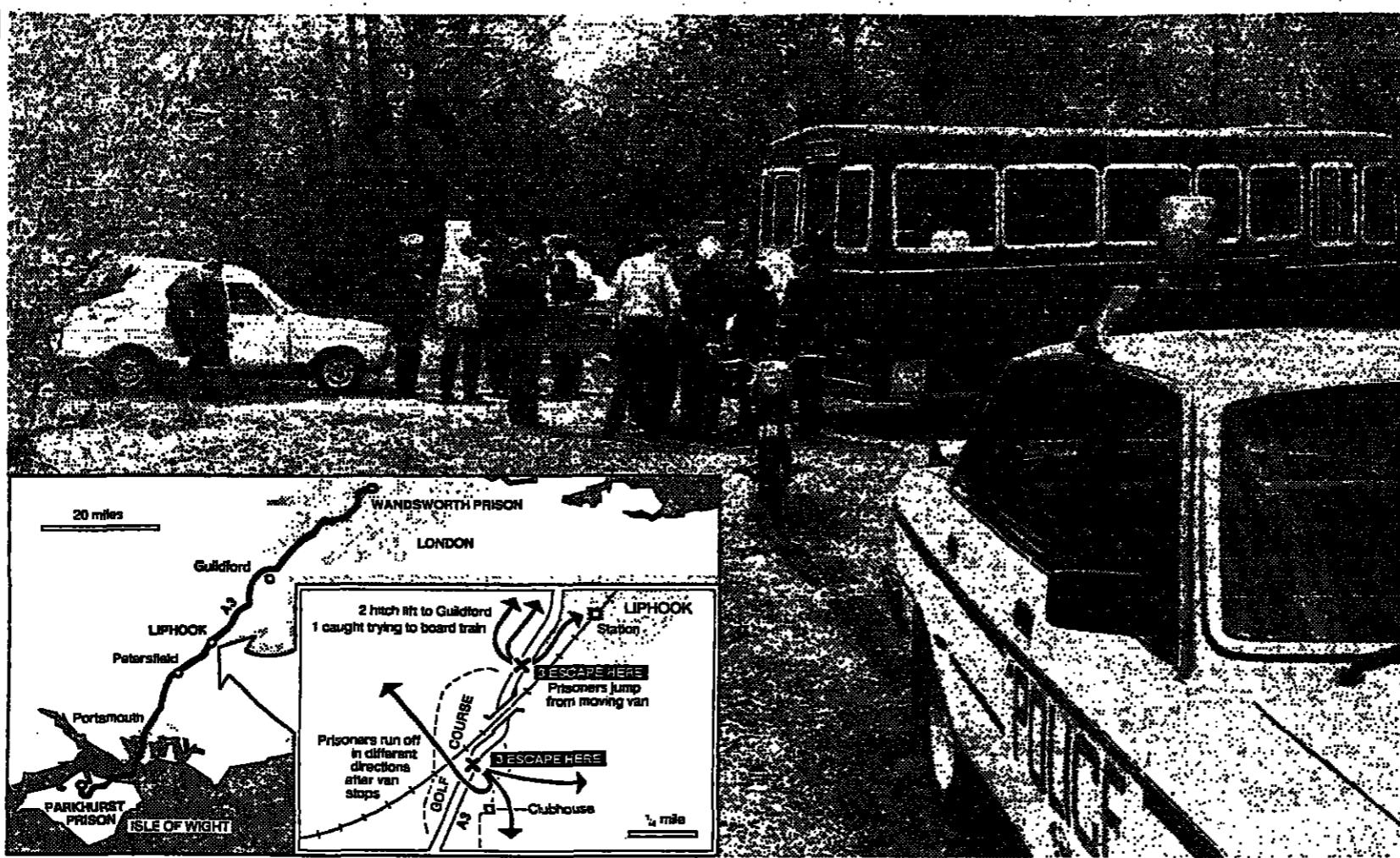
The Prime Minister said she would get an agreement by June. Mr Eric Heffer, the Opposition's main spokesman on EEC said: "It is clear there is not to be an agreement by June. It is not an idea for the Prime Minister not to bother to go to Stuttgart but to wait until after the general election and we have won it and begun the process of withdrawal."

Mr Iain Evans, another staunch Labour opponent of British membership, asked the Foreign Secretary to confirm that since it entered the EEC has cost Britain £6,000m and as a nation £1m for every day?

Mr Pym counter-attacked with more figures: the Government had been able to negotiate a total refund of £2,000m so far.

It remained to be seen whether Stuttgart would agree on a rebate on Britain's contributions to the 1983 budget.

EEC olive branch, page 6



Investigation under way: Police and prison officers at the scene of the van escape near Liphook golf course, Hampshire.

Prisoners on the run after van escape

Continued from page 1

club, telephoned the police and closed the course for an hour-and-a-half while police dogs were used to search for the men. It was reopened in the afternoon for a women's match.

Officer Stephen Wintall, aged 32, serving a 9-year sentence for kidnapping and blackmail, gave himself up to a reporter from *The Sun* newspaper, who took him to Alton police station.

The two still at large last night were James Stuart Virtue, aged 26, serving 10 years of robbery, and Anthony Jones, aged 33, serving five years for the same. They had been in a secret cabin, would have been under orders to keep going.

The eight prisoners who remained in the van, not attempting to escape, were driven to Havant police station.

Mr Ship, the principal prison officer, said: "I had handcuffs forced round my throat as they tried to choke me during the fight. They had me on the floor of the coach and they managed to get the keys

off one of the other officers to release the handcuffs.

The guards were shaken and suffered cuts and bruises, but none of us was seriously injured. The men involved are not Category A prisoners, but being prisoners they can be dangerous."

Inspector Ron Nevitt, of Sussex police, said the prisoners who were handcuffed in pairs, had staged a mock fight as a diversion, before they overpowered the officers. He said the survivor, who was in a secret cabin, would have been under orders to keep going.

The result can be differently read by different members of the party, not least by Mr Foot, a unilateralist, and Mr Denis Healey, his multilateralist deputy.

This joint leadership and its supporters were not prepared to risk the structure by allowing the adjustment of a comma.

• The Conservatives are given a 17½ per cent lead over Labour in a Gallup opinion poll published in today's *Daily Telegraph*.

The poll, conducted over the weekend, shows the Tories have the support of 49 per cent of the electorate, Labour 31½, the SDP-Liberal Alliance 17½ per cent and other parties 2 per cent.

The governor of Wandsworth prison will be carrying out an inquiry into the escape. The van was unescorted.

Labour agrees election manifesto

Continued from page 1

Mr Mortimer did not exaggerate. The sensitive passages notably on nuclear weapons and the European Community, were constructed at numerous sessions between January and March, where totally opposite views were reconciled and every word fought for.

The result can be differently read by different members of the party, not least by Mr Foot, a unilateralist, and Mr Denis Healey, his multilateralist deputy.

This joint leadership and its supporters were not prepared to risk the structure by allowing the adjustment of a comma.

• The Conservatives are given a 17½ per cent lead over Labour in a Gallup opinion poll published in today's *Daily Telegraph*.

The poll, conducted over the weekend, shows the Tories have the support of 49 per cent of the electorate, Labour 31½, the SDP-Liberal Alliance 17½ per cent and other parties 2 per cent.

The governor of Wandsworth prison will be carrying out an inquiry into the escape. The van was unescorted.

Shergar's sperm 'could have been sold'

By John Witherow

Racing experts conceded yesterday that Shergar, one of the world's most valuable horses kidnapped three months ago in the Irish Republic, could have its sperm used to impregnate mares by artificial insemination.

Though such a possibility may deserve more attention in a Dick Francis thriller, they said the discovery that Shergar's illegally-bred offspring could eventually be racing could throw the bloodstock industry into confusion.

The prevalence of such a theory reflects the mystery surrounding the kidnapping. After initial contact with the armed gang there has been silence and many in the industry feel the 1981 Derby winner is dead.

Members of the syndicate which owns Shergar have lodged claims totalling £6m with insurance companies, a payout that would be the biggest in the history of bloodstock racing.

But if Shergar is alive (some think he is being hidden in a remote part of Northern Ire-

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Two minutes on English starting - now

For Mr Michael English all life is an eternal edition of *Mastermind*. His special subject is Parliamentary Procedure, with Special Reference to Points of Order. He also does quite well on general knowledge.

And as with all those train drivers and taxi drivers who tend to win the annual award, Mr English is a great encouragement to self-improvers. For he does not have the sort of educated job associated with a man with such a vast knowledge of parliamentary procedure. He is an MP.

He took up the interest as a hobby shortly after being elected for a Nottingham seat in the Labour interest in 1964. By boring away diligently in his spare time, he has made himself the master of one of the most tedious of all branches of human knowledge. He is a lesson to us all.

But yesterday came the sudden news that, as a result of those dark processes in his party broadly embraced by the term "reselection", Mr English will not now be a candidate for any Nottingham seat in the forthcoming election. It must be assumed that he will not be a candidate anywhere, certainly not a seat likely to be won by his party.

It was still news. Who would bore for Britain now? Many's the time Mr English made the House comatose with a single precedent. When Mr English would enter the chamber with a stack of pre-1914 Hansards under his arm, Speakers would stomp, the wigs of the learned clerks at the table would slip in despair beneath the fast-closing eyes of their owners.

For whatever the procedural question, Mr English always had the answer, although it was because only he knew the question. But yesterday, with only three days of his parliamentary career left to him, there was not a decent procedural irregularity in sight. He sat in his usual seat below the gangway, contented to silence.

The House picked its way listlessly through the last foreign affairs question time of the Parliament. Another Labour member who is not standing again, the left-winger Mr Frank Allard, the grand old man of Soviet peace initiatives, asked for the last time why Britain and Nato could not make "a reciprocal offer" to the Kremlin later in the disengagement.

"I think I have had enough now," sighed the Speaker, which phrase must serve as the epitaph to the English Years.

In that rather overbearing way of his Mr Winston Churchill, the Conservative member for Salford, warned of the danger of entrusting Britain's security "to the good will and sense of honour of the men who from time to time may hold sway in the Kremlin", just as Mr Churchill will be doing, alas, for the next 30 years. Still no scope for a point of order from Mr English.

Question time drifted to a close. Mr David Atton, the Liberal member for Edge Hill, announced that, in view of the imminent dissolution of Parliament, he had withdrawn his private member's bill about which he was due to speak that day.

The Bill provided for elections to be held under a system of proportional representation. Suddenly Mr English was on his feet. At last he had a point of order. "I was the member who had given notice that I wished to oppose the hon member for Edge Hill and mentioned it to him," he announced.

"Is it not an abuse of our procedures to book time and then withdraw it after the time at which it is possible for other hon members to book the same time?" he protested. The blood surged through his precedents for the last time, just as it had done so often since 1964.

"The thing, perhaps, which cut me to the quick is that he has deprived me of my swan song in this House when it was just possible I might have managed to defeat him with the votes of both parties," he told the Speaker, Mr George Thomas.

Mr English said it with a smile. But we knew that in reality his heart was torn.

Mr Nicholas Winterton, the exuberant Conservative member for Macclesfield, rose. No proceduralist, he. Indeed, procedure was invented to control people such as him. He dispensed with Englisher subtleties. He just announced that the Liberals lacked the courage to raise the matter so close to an election.

But the Speaker, who himself will not be a member of the next Parliament, weakly ruled that it was in order for a member to withdraw a Bill if he so chose.

"I think I have had enough now," sighed the Speaker, which phrase must serve as the epitaph to the English Years.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales attends the formal dedication ceremony of the Maureen Production Platform, Kishorn, Wester Ross, 11.30.

Princess Anne attends the Floral Luncheon in aid of the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshop, Savoy Hotel, London, 12.30.

The Duke of Gloucester opens the Fitzwilliam Hospital, Peterborough, 3.

Princess Alexandra opens Hay Lodge Hospital and Health Centre, Petts, 2; opens new part in Balfour, Scotland, 4.

EEC olive branch, page 6

Exhibitions in progress

Fri 10 to 4, Wed 10 to 7.30 (until June 3).

Landscape in Britain 1850-1950, City Museum and Art Gallery, Queen's Road, Bristol; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; (until June 4).

Lincolnshire and South Humberside Arts and Crafts exhibition, Usher Gallery, Lincoln, 10am-5pm, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10 to 5.30, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10 to 5.30 (until May 29).

Teamwork by Dundee Group (artists) and Dundee Printmakers Workshop, Meadowplace, 10 Victoria Chambers, Dundee, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 6, closed Tuesdays (until May 29).

Superhuman in Wales, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Alexandra Road, Swansea; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5, closed Sun; (until May 28).

Skylarks: Kites and banners designed and made by Skye Morrison, Castle Museum, The Castle, Nottingham; daily 10 to 4.45; (until June 5).

Paintings by Vanessa Bell, Royal Museum and Art Gallery, High Street, Cambridge; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; (until May 28).

Work by Sidney Rose-Nell, Stantonbury Gallery, Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes, daily 9 am to 10 pm; Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Tuesdays (until May 22).

Private Views: self-portraits and portraits, University of East Anglia Library, Norwich; Mon to Thurs 9 am to 5 pm; Fri 9 to 8, Sat 9 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until June 27).

The Story of the British International Association: Photo montage by Peter Kennard: Dispatches from an Unofficial War Artist: Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Sun (until May 22).

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